Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Torres seeks to recognize gambling ban in Constitution. PAGE 5
Two contracts for CUC green energy underway. PAGE 6

IRS confirms CW workers are not exempt from FICA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has confirmed that workers with Commonwealth-only visa or status, including those from the Philippines, are not exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes.

IRS, the U.S. government agency responsible for tax collection and tax law enforcement, posted for the first time a statement on its website under "What's New" on Publication 80 about Filipino workers in the CNMI and the new CW transitional visa classification.

"Workers on the CW visa, including those from the Philippines, are not exempt

See IRS on Page 4

HEALTHCARE OFFICIALS DISCLOSE:

Emergency layoffs being eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Due to budget constraints, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may resort to an emergency reduction-in-force—employee layoffs—to ensure that it could effectively operate within

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RELATED NEWS

Healthcare's budget woes stall processing of personnel contracts.

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105-year-old Japanese here on a search for memorial

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A Japanese centenarian who is a lifelong educator and specialist in early-childhood education for children with disabilities is on Saipan to search for the peace memorial built some 30 years ago for Koreans who perished during World War II.

Dr. Saburo Shochi, founder of Japan's first school for mentally challenged children called "Shiinomi Gakuen," visited yesterday the monuments on the northern part of the island with his assistant, Tsubone Chikako, and his supporter, Koga Taketoshi, who also served as his translator.

Saipan Tribune joined the 105-year-old Shochi, who is on island for the third time, and his team in search of the peace memorial, making stops at the Korean Memorial, Okinawa Memorial, Last Command Post, and Banzai Cliff to find the monument.

Taketoshi said that Shochi, who taught at Daegu Polytechnic College Graduate School in Korea, was instrumental in constructing the monument, which he described as about two meters high and etched with at least 20 Japanese, Korean, and American names.

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Saburo Shochi, the 105-year-old founder of Shiinomi Gakuen, Japan's first school for mentally challenged children, talks about his secrets to his longevity at the Banzai Cliff yesterday morning. Shochi, who has traveled around the world seven times, is on island to search for the peace memorial built some 30 years ago.

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OPINION METER

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LOCAL

Cameron Boyer wins the GTC Elementary School's National Geographic Bee.

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LOCAL

Scientists have discovered an outbreak of coral disease in Kāneohe Bay, Oahu.

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LIFE & STYLE

Paula Deen waits three years to disclose she has diabetes.

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Local

Kilili recognizes 37 entities for maintaining maritime security

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White join members and supporters of the CNMI Area Maritime Security Committee that the delegate recognized during a brief ceremony at the seaport yesterday morning.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) recognized yesterday 37 local and federal government agencies and private sector partners for developing a comprehensive port evacuation plan, among other things, that exceeds national standards for improving and maintaining maritime safety and security.

Sablan, joined by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White, presented certificates of recognition to most of the 37 entities present during a brief ceremony at the seaport yesterday morning.

Most of them comprise the CNMI Area Maritime Security Committee, which has been the first to actually go through the actual planning cycle from beginning to end and exercise the port evacuation plan.

"The Committee and individual members from agencies of the Commonwealth and federal governments and private organizations worked together toward the important goal of developing an effective, comprehensive port evacuation plan and to create improved maritime safety measures as required by the Department of Homeland Security," Sablan told the crowd.

He said recognizing the CNMI Maritime Security Committee was an idea shared by his office and Coast Guard's Jesse Rangle.

"What you have achieved is not just compliance with all DHS requirements. You have, in fact, implemented a system that exceeds national standards for improving and maintaining maritime safety and security in the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said. White echoed this statement in a later interview.

Sablan added that the committee's commitment toward ensuring uninterrupted flow of commerce to the CNMI and at the same time ensuring the safety of lives and property must be commended.

"And for your outstanding work, professionalism, and commitment, we offer our gratitude and appreciation," Sablan said as he prepared to present the certificates.

Jordon Lee I. Kosam, chief of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Ports Police, said he's humbled by the recognition, adding that they would continue to live up to safety and security standards. Kosam said he has been with the Ports Police for some 15 years.

Sablan has asked whether Coast Guard could have more personnel or a full time operational presence in the CNMI.

White, in an interview with reporters after the ceremony, said they have been continuously reviewing and identifying the threats and gaps and include them in their operational planning, given that they have limited presence in the CNMI.

"There's ongoing review to determine where the gaps are," she said, but whether that means they are going to have full time presence in the CNMI, "we are years from being able to possibly realize that."

She said they have a full-time team of four people in the CNMI, as part of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, which covers the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Whenever the CNMI needs additional help, the resources from Sector Guam are tapped including the use of patrol boats.

White also talked about national budget constraints, so they try to maximize the limited resources they have in making sure they are able to fully patrol their area of responsibility.

Among those recognized were CPA seaport manager MaryAnn Q. Lizama; CNMI Office of Homeland Security's Marvin K. Seman; former CNMI Office of Homeland Security official Patrick J. Tenorio; Emergency Management Office's Joaquin Omar, George Cabrera, Juan Camacho and Henry Yarofalpiy; CPA Ports Police chief Jordon Lee Kosam, assistant chief Juan Dela Cruz and Capt. Juan Rebuenog; Customs Services Division director Jesus Muna and Lt. Rick Camacho; Department of Public Safety-Fire Division's Capt. Juan Pua; Police Officer Nober Pua of DPS Boating Safety; Department of Public Health's Warren Villagomez; Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Al Santos; Division of Environmental Quality's Reina Camacho and David Chargualaf; Coastal Resources Management's John San Nicolas; and Barbara Mizutani from the CNMI Legislature.

Sablan also recognized the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan, Transportation Security Administration's Lee Cabrera, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Ambyth Shipping's Teresa Lee Gotti and Noli San Luis, Inchcape Shipping, Saipan Stevedore's Willard Erungel, CTSI's Joven Cruz, Mobil Oil Micronesia's Anthony Wencesnao, IP&E's (Shell Marianas) Jack Salas, GRESCO, Saipan Marine and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

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Healthcare's budget woes stall processing of personnel contracts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of directors disclosed yesterday that the processing of personnel contracts—for both new and existing employees—is being stalled, resulting in the delay of important healthcare services.

Anthony Raho, the hospital's inpatient pharmacist and corporation board member, reported that despite the organization's active efforts to recruit personnel, the processing stopped just before the actual signing of contracts due to the lack of "certified" budget to pay for salaries.

"We're attempting to hire, but it seems there is no movement [in the processing of contracts] because of our budget. How are we going to move things along on personnel if we don't have a budget?" Raho told the board in yesterday's meeting.

The hospital's director for Medical Affairs, Dr. Michael Deary, said that the delay in the movement of contract signing is also evident in the situation of the Tinian Health Center, which recently lost its only physician, Dr. Steve Lebamoff. Deary said he has already told the budget office that the contract, if approved and accepted, is not a new hire but a replacement that is already included in the existing budget.

Another board member, Anthony Aguon, said that the delay in the processing of contracts is affecting both new and existing personnel at the Tinian center. "I wonder if we can do something to speed up the process now," he asked the board.

Deary, Raho, and Aguon expressed frustration over the adverse effect of not having a budget to work with even though the fiscal year already started in October. The corporation was appropriated only $5 million in seed money for its personnel and operations this year. In December, the board submitted to the Legislature a $38.5 million supplemental budget request, with the main objective of tapping some $18 million in "identified" resources for CHC that was never actually appropriated under the 2012 budget law. The Legislature has yet to act on this request.

Chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told the board yesterday that it's still the corporation's goal to get that $18 million for the hospital.

But because of the current fiscal state of the government where revenues and collections continue to drop, some board members recommended to portion out the budget—without the anticipated $18 million "added" revenue.

"I think it's better to assume that we will not get that $18 million," suggested board member Roy Rios, "so the corporation can start moving forward."

Acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz instructed Babauta to request a meeting with both House and Senate leaders to present the budget condition of the corporation. One of the things he wants answered, he said, is if the Legislature will appropriate the $18 million for CHC.

THREE SENTENCED IN ONE DAY ON TINIAN

Ex-teacher, 2 others get prison terms for sex abuse of minor, sexual assault

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman sentenced in one day three defendants on Tinian, including a former high school teacher, for separate cases of sexual abuse of a minor and sexual assault.

In separate hearings on Friday at the Tinian Superior Court, Wiseman imposed a two-year prison sentence on former Tinian High School teacher Jonathan M. Diaz, three years for Joseph Ray Arriola Jr., and eight years for Alvin P. Lizama.

"When parents send their children to school, they should be entitled to do so with a presumption that the school will act *in loco parentis*, a Latin term meaning in place of the parent, and that they will oversee and protect their child against any harm from others," said Wiseman in sentencing 28-year-old Diaz.

Diaz was found guilty in September last year of three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree. He impregnated his then 16-year-old student.

In his written sentence issued yesterday, Wiseman said that although the victim and Diaz assumed they were in a consensual boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, the law says otherwise, especially considering Diaz's position of authority as a teacher.

"Sentencing not only serves what is good for the defendant, but rather what is best for the community, and in particular, the safety of our children, in the sense that such crimes against our children by those in authority be deterred from occurring," Wiseman said.

In this case, the victim got pregnant by Diaz and had to quit school as a result, he said.

"Situations such as the adverse effects to this young victim's life caused by [Diaz]'s action is why the people passed a law that has harsh sentences as sending a strong message to potential offenders that they will go to jail if they molest or abuse children or students," he said.

As for 22-year-old Arriola, Wiseman said he finds the defendant to be a young man who seemed dominated by peer pressure and engaged in an act of youthful indiscretion.

"Our public laws represent the will and sentiment of the people of the community and when it comes to sexual abuse of a minor, they have spoken loud and clear, with harsh sentences," the judge said.

Arriola was found guilty in September last year of sexual assault in the third degree for raping a drunk woman at a Tinian cemetery.

Wiseman did not issue a statement in his order in the case against 28-year-old Lizama.

Police arrested Lizama in August 2011 for allegedly raping a girl, who later became pregnant and delivered a baby. Lizama's mother, Admanita, was also arrested that same day for allegedly ignoring the girl's complaints.

On Friday, Lizama pleaded guilty to a count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. The victim is a 15-year-old girl.

Wiseman gave the three defendants credit for the time they had already spent in jail—eight days for Diaz, three days for Arriola, and one month and 12 days for Lizama.

The three were directed to start serving their sentences on Saipan starting Jan. 30, 2012.

Diaz is expected to be released on Jan. 22, 2014. Arriola shall be released on Jan. 27, 2015. Lizama is expected to be freed on Dec. 18, 2019.

Wiseman required them to register as sex offenders and pay a fine, probation fee, and court assessment fee, among other conditions. After completing the jail terms, the three will be placed on supervised probation.

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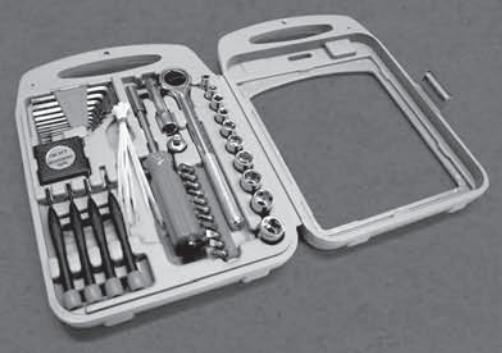

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Fitial signs first Tinian budget in six years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed late yesterday afternoon Tinian's municipal budget of $3 million for fiscal year 2012, six years after the island last passed a budget in fiscal year 2006.

"The Tinian leadership has accomplished what it set out to do—pass a budget for the municipality. This budget sets aside $160,000 in retroactive pay for over 100 government employees," Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hofschneider, chair of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, thanked the governor for signing the local budget bill into law. He also lauded Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, the Tinian Municipal Council and the delegation for working together to pass a budget.

Hofschneider, Dela Cruz, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), and Tinian Municipal Council Joseph Cruz witnessed the governor's signing of the local budget law on Capital Hill.

The Senate vice president also noted that the governor himself wants to ensure that the $160,000 for retroactive pay will be set aside, and this could be in a form of a directive.

The delegation originally set aside only $80,000 for the retroactive pay but doubled the amount later after days and nights of going over the budget bill.

Dela Cruz was only projecting $2.3 million to $2.5 million in revenue from the casino industry for fiscal year 2012, considering that the actual collection in 2011 was only less than $2 million.

The budget bill's total estimated revenue for fiscal year 2012 is $3,026,250.

Of this amount, $2.5 million comes from casino tax revenue, $500,000 from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's casino license fee, $20,250 from device fees, and $6,000 from employee fees.

The bill gives $527,000 to seven special programs, including $200,000 for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, $160,000 for retroactive pay, $70,000 for the Tinian Medical Assistance Program, $50,000 for educational programs, $22,000 for community programs and $5,000 for senior citizens program.

This appropriations bill covers personnel and operations cost of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Tinian Municipal Treasurer, the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, and the Tinian Municipal Council.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta is seen presenting to the board members yesterday the serious impact of operating the hospital and health centers with only $5 million seed capital.

EMERGENCY

From Page 1

the limits of its financial capability.

Chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta and corporation board members bared this in a meeting yesterday, where they also disclosed that they are now working on appropriate policies that will guide them in doing so.

Babauta said that since he came onboard on Oct. 24, he and his team have been gathering information from all sections, activities, and programs in order to look at areas that may either be reduced or eliminated due to the lack of budget.

The corporation has about 600 employees on three islands.

Without singling out any specific units or services, Babauta said that affected employees in those sections that will be reduced or terminated will be the first to know the corporation's decision.

He said a strategic planning is now being developed to ensure the correct enforcement of the reduction-in-force.

Board member Roy Rios recommended the lateral transfer of potentially affected employees to other units, so long as they are qualified for the job. He cited as an example the hospital's dental service, where employees can be transferred to other stations. It was earlier reported that dental service is among the areas being considered for elimination.

Rios also recommended a full assessment of those hospital units that have been "killing the corporation" by incurring large overtime costs.

The board's legal counsel, James Kearney, assured that the corporation will make sure that personnel policies will guide the board in its implementation of any reduction-in-force and that any actions will be within the bounds of the law.

According to Babauta, if the corporation will only base its operation on the $5 million seed capital provided by the Legislature, this will mean a drastic reduction in the size of the corporation.

"If we are going to go with the $5 million budget we have now, we would have to lay off 50 percent of the people here in the corporation. Obviously, we're not going to do that," said Babauta, but pointed out the need to streamline operations.

Dr. Michael Deary, director for Medical Affairs, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he will do everything he can to keep the number of clinicians and providers currently available at the hospital. He disclosed that there are 25 full-time doctors at CHC and it needs more.

IRS

From Page 1

from Social Security and Medicare taxes," IRS says.

It adds, "Unless temporary workers in the CNMI are eligible for an exemption from Social Security and Medicare taxes based on some other circumstances (for example, a Filipino resident holding a valid U.S. H-2 visa), employers are required to withhold and pay Social Security and Medicare taxes."

IRS says Filipino residents admitted to the CNMI are not treated as exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes on the basis of holding a work permit under CNMI immigration law.

While the CNMI is transitioning to full implementation of U.S. immigration law, a new transitional CW visa classification is available for workers in the CNMI.

The one-paragraph information can be accessed at http://www.irs.gov/publications/p80/ar01.html#en_US_2011_publink1000233890.

Since late November to early December, some employers in the CNMI have already started withholding and paying Social Security and Medicare taxes from their Filipino employees who, prior to Nov. 28, 2011, were considered exempt from paying these taxes.

Workers from Korea have been considered not exempt from the taxes but different interpretations of laws and policies resulted in some employers not withholding and paying these taxes for years.

Many employers, however, have remained on a wait-and-see mode, trying to get a memo or circular directly from IRS regarding the application of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes as a result of federalization of local immigration.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

"Now that IRS has already posted something on its website that CW workers are not exempt, we have no choice but to comply," said a 50-year-old businessman who has been in construction business in the CNMI for 14 years.

He said his business may further let go of some foreign workers to cope with the additional personnel expense brought by the withholding and payment of Medicare and Social Security taxes. Because many of his employees are from the Philippines, this would be the first time that the employer and his employees will be paying these federal taxes.

Ricky Pineda, an accountant at Taro Sue furniture store, said yesterday that the FICA taxes are negatively affecting both the employees and employer. He said Taro Sue started withholding and paying taxes this month. Other businesses that have been deducting and paying these federal taxes from their employers did not want to have their business names published at this time.

A worker earning the CNMI's minimum wage of $5.05 an hour will have a monthly FICA tax deduction of over $45.

Employee's FICA contribution is 5.65 percent of their salary for 2011—4.2 percent for Social Security and 1.45 percent for Medicare. This is on top of the CNMI taxes that foreign workers pay.

But IRS says that the rate for employee's share of Social Security is scheduled to increase to 6.2 percent for wages paid after Feb. 29, 2012. This means additional dollars deducted from workers' wages.

"However, Congress was discussing an extension of the 4.2 percent employee tax rate for Social Security beyond Feb. 29, 2012," IRS says.

For employers, this means an additional expense of almost $62 a month in employer's share for every employee required to pay FICA taxes. Employer's share is 7.65 of the employee's salary—6.20 percent for Social Security and 1.45 percent for Medicare, unchanged from 2011.

Employers in the CNMI, including members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, have long been seeking continued exemption from the FICA taxes for Filipino workers. Many, if not most, of the foreign workers employed in the CNMI are from the Philippines.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan, when asked for comment yesterday on the information from IRS, said the Chamber has not changed its position "and disagrees with the recent IRS printing where Filipino CW-1 transitional workers would be subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes."

He said umbrella permit holders and its established predecessor, the CNMI immigration work and entry permit, were "temporary and to mirror the U.S. H-2 visa."

"Just because USCIS has changed the name of the immigration vehicle from an umbrella permit to a CW-1 visa does not mean they are no longer temporary work classifications. We're talking about the same people, let alone the fact that USCIS has established them as temporary and to be transitioned out of the CNMI in 2014," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail response.

USCIS stands for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, one of the component agencies under the Department of Homeland Security.

"Why when CNMI temporary foreign national workers, and their employers, have poured nearly $60 million into the black hole of the IRS over the past 25 years is IRS now deciding they are going to get additional monies from those transitional workers that will only be here another two years?" Brennan asked. "It is arguably against both the low-income employee that does not qualify for H-1B and other U.S. visa classification where they would pay FICA tax, and businesses that employ them and are having a hard time staying afloat right now, to do so."

The Fitial administration is also opposed to the removal of federal tax exemption for Filipino, as well as Korean, workers.

Some Filipino workers, while trying to comply with the IRS information, said they don't believe they will actually benefit from paying federal taxes when their CW permits are only up to 2014. After that or when they lose their employment, they won't get a single cent from their Social Security or Medicare contributions.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

Taketoshi, who used to work for Japan's NHK television channel, recounted that Shochi was joined by a hundred Korean students during the unveiling of the peace memorial some 30 years ago.

Shochi's late daughter, Kuniko, visited the island in the '90s or about 20 years ago and found her father's peace memorial at the present site of the Korean Memorial.

"Dr. Shochi would always remember in his mind the peace memorial, wherever he goes around the world," Taketoshi said.

Shochi, who was born on Aug. 16, 1906, has traveled around the world at least seven times, with six of the seven tours made after he turned 100.

Although unsuccessful in his search, Shochi breathed in Saipan's beauty on a very fine day, taking time not just to visit several peace memorials but also—and more importantly—honor "with a heavy heart" those who lost their lives during the war.

"He has lived 105 years so he has seen many, many bad things from mankind," said Taketoshi. "He has seen wars, atomic bombs, diseases, tsunamis that have caused the death of many people."

Still, Shochi continues to maintain his happy disposition in life and expressed delight to be back once again on island, once the site of a turning-point battle between conflicting nations and has now become a melting pot of varied cultures.

When asked for his secret to his healthy longevity, Shochi simply replied, "Smile," flashing one that's genuine and pure.

A native of Fukuoka, Shochi is celebrated internationally for being an advocate of improved early-childhood education, particularly for children with disabilities. His own two sons who were both born with cerebral palsy motivated him to build Shiinomi Gakuen and other special education facilities.

"He really has a warm heart for young children, especially those with disabilities," said Taketoshi.

Shochi founded and became popular for his "Parent and Child Toy Making Class" method, which considers the age of 3 as "decisive in human development" and, therefore, the need for an effective educational program like making handmade toys between parents and toddlers.

These toys, Taketoshi said, are made of recyclable materials such as toilet paper rolls, empty boxes, and used cups. The process of making toys, he said, helps stimulate creativity, which is favorable for both parents and children.

Taketoshi said that Shochi also attributes his long life to other health habits, like sleeping on the "right" mattress, morning rubdown with a wet and cold towel, language lessons and keeping a diary in foreign languages, and baton exercises.

Shochi, who is also scheduled to make a stop in Guam this trip, will be traveling to Cape Town for an annual psychologist meeting in July. He expressed hope to be back again on Saipan someday, so he could find out what happened to the peace memorial.

Torres seeks to recognize gambling ban in Constitution

» Palacios asks Fitial to submit certified question on casino

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) is proposing to make CNMI general laws prohibiting gambling consistent with Article 21 of the CNMI Constitution, which could help pave the way for a local law to allow casinos on Saipan. At the same time, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) is seeking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nod in submitting a certified question to the court in line with his lawsuit over the governor's veto of a local bill seeking to legalize casino operations on Saipan.

Both Torres and Palacios support legalizing casino gambling on Saipan. Torres is also author of the local bill that the governor vetoed, citing the unconstitutionality of the bill.

Torres, in his House Bill 17-269, said the current statutory law prohibiting gambling, 6 CMC 3151, was enacted in August 1983—two years before the CNMI Constitution, Article 21 Section 1, became effective.

"The purpose of this enactment is to recognize the prohibition of gambling set forth in NMI Constitution, Article 21 Section 1 and replace the statutory prohibition with the constitutional prohibition, and to recognize the legalization of casino gambling in the First and Second Senatorial Districts," Torres said.

He seeks to repeal and reenact Title 6 Division 3 Chapter 1 Article 2 to state, "Gambling is prohibited in the Northern Mariana Islands except as provided by Commonwealth law or established through initiative in the Commonwealth or in any senatorial district."

Torres' bill also seeks to ensure that the CNMI be completely self-regulating in all areas having to do with gambling and gambling devices, and that all forms of gambling should be allowed, prohibited, and regulated "by local law."

HB 17-269 seeks to exempt from the prohibition of gambling the operation of poker and pachinko slot machines, Commonwealth lottery, bingo, bato, raffles, and cockfighting, and other forms of gambling authorized by local law or local initiative.

Palacios, in his hand-carried letter to the governor, wants Fitial to agree to submitting a certified question to the CNMI Supreme Court in light of the governor's veto of House Local Bill 17-44 and Palacios' belief in the notion that a local law is a Commonwealth law.

The question that Palacios wants to submit to court is: "Is a local law enacted pursuant to Article 2 section 6 of the NMI Constitution a Commonwealth law?"

Palacios asked the governor to respond by Monday, Jan. 23, because of the potential ramifications of the issue.

Torres

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman heard last week Fitial's motion to dismiss a lawsuit that Palacios filed over Fitial's veto of the local casino bill. He later placed the matter under advisement.

Torres had introduced a local bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan, after a similar House bill was killed by the Senate. The local bill passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, only to be vetoed by the governor who believes that a local law is not a Commonwealth law. Palacios took the governor to court, even as another House casino bill passed the House and is now pending at the Senate.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the House leadership will bring up in today's joint leadership meeting of the House and Senate the need to pass the casino bill, which he says is the only major revenue-generating bill pending in the Legislature.

EEOC seeks new trial in its sexual harassment lawsuit

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is seeking a new jury trial in its sexual harassment lawsuit against the owners of Saipan Grand Hotel that it had accused of subjecting a female employee to a sexually hostile work environment.

In a motion for a new trial filed yesterday in district court, EEOC trial attorney Derek W. Li asserted that Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. and Tan Holdings Corp.'s late disclosure of Melinda Javier as a trial witness substantially interfered with the EEOC's fair presentation of its case.

Li said that five days before trial and more than 10 months after the fact-discovery cutoff, the defendants notified the EEOC that they planned to call Javier as a witness to impeach the singer, Michelle Bunoan.

Javier had testified during the trial that she saw Bunoan and her alleged harasser, former Grand Hotel restaurant manager Roberto "Tom" Alegre, hugging each other in two separate occasions.

The defendants have yet to respond to the motion.

On Dec. 200, 2011, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the Asia Pacific and Tan Holdings.

Alegre, who is now based in the Philippines, insists that he had a consensual relationship with Bunoan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

No bail for ex-convict in theft of car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict who has several pending criminal cases and was arrested again Friday night for alleged involvement in a conspiracy to steal a car and sell off its parts was not allowed to post bail yesterday.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman said he couldn't think of any bail conditions for suspect Calistro Acosta Crisostimo.

"There's no respect to court orders based on your criminal history," the judge told the suspect.

Wiseman said that Crisostimo poses a danger to the community, citing his prior convictions and several pending criminal and traffic cases.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing had recommended no bail for the 28-year-old Crisostimo, saying he continues to disobey court orders.

Crisostimo was taken to court yesterday on charges of theft of vehicle, theft, tampering with a vehicle, contempt of court, and conspiracy.

Police said that a vehicle was reported stolen from the parking lot of Moon Night Poker in Chalan Kanoa on Dec. 8, 2011 at 1am. Investigation showed that the victim, Gwang Hee Chu, parked her vehicle next to her friend's car on Dec. 7 at 9:20pm. Chu locked her vehicle but left a spare key inside the vehicle's glove compartment. When she returned to the parking lot later, the vehicle was no longer there.

On Dec. 25, 2011, police officers found Chu's stolen car at the former Advance Textile Garment Factory in Upper Navy Hill during routine patrol. Majority of the vehicle's parts were missing.

Two days later, a tip from Crime Stoppers identified two individuals who were seen driving the stolen vehicle. One witness told police that it was Calistro who stole the vehicle and turned it over to Prisco Ongrung and George Satoshi to dismantle the vehicle to sell the parts for cash.

Satoshi allegedly confessed that the car was hidden in a jungle area at Ladder Beach and Crisostimo, who was laughing, claimed it belonged to a friend.

Police said that Satoshi admitted that he and Ongrung stripped the car of parts and sold them to unknown individuals. Satoshi allegedly confessed that Ongrung made him smoke methamphetamine or "ice" for his labor cost.

Ongrung and Crisostimo allegedly divided between them the money they got from selling the parts.

Ongrung was named Crisostimo's co-defendant in the police report. It was not immediately clear yesterday whether Ongrung has already been arrested.

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Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku heneråt siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Two contracts for CUC green energy underway

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is finally going green.

Executive director Abe Utu Malae said yesterday that the utilities company will soon award contracts that will tap renewable energy sources in the CNMI.

Malae

Malae said that two solar energy proposals are now being reviewed and both will be awarded contracts soon. The two projects are expected to produce an additional 15 to 20 megawatts for Saipan's power grid.

"Realistically, we are expecting more than 15 megawatts available to CUC on Saipan within three years. But even that 15 MW will be available for no more than 12 hours per day. The price of energy to CUC will be below $0.20/kWh, which is about 10 cents cheaper than the LEAC [levelized energy adjustment clause] or the price of diesel fuel," he said.

Another alternative energy project, Malae said, is a request for proposal to investigate the potential for geothermal energy in the Commonwealth. Proposals from the three top proposers will be reviewed next week and Malae said that two geologists from off-island are assisting CUC in this process. If proven possible, geothermal power would result in a more stable power supply, Malae said.

Another project that is now ready to be contracted is gasification or converting waste to energy, according to Malae. This small modular project is seen to produce under one megawatt. "We are working with Department of Public works on using solid waste hauled to the transfer station and landfill as feedstock."

He said CUC is considering two proposals to capture waste heat using an Organic Rankine Cycle, which uses an organic fluid with a boiling point lower than water. The fluid enables recovery of heat from lower temperature sources such as industrial waste and geothermal heat. The low temperature heat is used to drive a turbine and create electricity.

"We have a huge technical challenge because we are pushing the envelope in connecting renewable energy generation to the small Saipan grid that is a big percentage of total demand. For example the peak load on Saipan is about 35 MW and the prospective renewables capacity can reach 20 MW within two years," he said.

CUC is required by law to derive at least 40 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2012. Malae believes this is impossible to meet.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, however, has allowed CUC to develop its green energy portfolio as quickly as practicable.

Election panel names polling sites for 2012 election

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission approved yesterday the designation of 13 areas as official polling sites for the Nov. 6, 2012, midterm elections.

Its board of directors, led by chair Frances Sablan, approved the baker's dozen precinct polling stations and directed the commission to start all preparations for the election.

The polling stations for each precinct level include Hopwood Junior High School, Dandan Elementary School, and Koblerville Youth Center for precinct 1 voters. This precinct covers voters from San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville area.

For precinct 2 voters, which hail from Chalan Kanoa and Susupe, the official polling station is the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and the Garapan Elementary School's northern side, meanwhile, will accommodate voters from precinct 3, which encompasses Oleai and Garapan.

For precinct 4 voters, official polling stations are the Tanapag Youth Center, the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Jesus P. Mafnas Legislative Building, and the Northern Islands. Precinct 4 voters are from Tanapag, San Roque, Capital Hill, and the Northern Islands.

The Kagman Community Center will be the official polling site for voters in precinct 5, which covers residents of Kagman, while Tinian Elementary School remains the official polling station for precinct 6. For Rota, the Northern Marianas College campus will accommodate voters on the island.

According to Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero, registration for the midterm election is ongoing. As of Oct. 14 last year, voters' statistics from the agency was at 15,338: Saipan has 12,527 registered voters, Tinian has 1,367, and Rota has 1,444.

Guerrero said yesterday that the early designation of polling stations signals the start of the sites' maintenance and for early voting activities.

He said the commission will conduct early voting for Northern Islands residents 45 days prior to election day. Early voting for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be 10 days prior to Nov. 6. The designated polling sites for early voting are the Pedro Tenorio Multipurpose Center for Saipan and Department of Public Safety for the two islands.

Guerrero and board chair Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the commission will send staff to Tinian and Rota for the conduct of early voting. Assistance will also be provided by the police, as well as by the Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Public Auditor.

Ex-cop admits using excessive force

Frankie Sablan Pangelinan, a former police officer accused of using excessive force while making a false arrest of two men when he was still with the Department of Public Safety, pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday.

The 44-year-old Pangelinan pleaded guilty to deprivation of rights under color of law as part of a plea deal. The offense carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The defense and prosecution agreed that the most appropriate sentence is time served, plus supervised release for a period of not more than three years.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Pangelinan's guilty plea and set his sentencing on May 11, 2012, at 9am. Manglona directed the U.S. Probation Office to submit a presentence investigation report.

Attorney Robert T. Tenorio served as counsel for Pangelinan. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the plea agreement, on the evening of July 26, 2010, while in uniform and driving a marked Department of Public Safety patrol vehicle, Pangelinan went to western Garapan to the vicinity of Crystal Massage.

Pangelinan responded to the area after receiving a call from David Cepeda, who had received a call for assistance from the proprietor of that business.

While at that location, Pangelinan drew his DPS-issued pepper spray and intentionally sprayed Felipe Kalen in the face. Pangelinan agreed that the U.S. government's evidence would show that there was no lawful reason for him to use the degree of force against Kalen.

The indictment charged Pangelinan with three counts of deprivation of rights under color of law. As part of the plea bargain, the U.S. government will recommend the dismissal of two charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Boyer wins GTC's Geographic Bee

Participants in GTC Elementary School's Geographic Bee have their picture taken with teachers and Bee coordinators after the competition. The participants were Cameron Boyer (1st place), Miguel Aninon (2nd place), Martin Camacho (3rd place), Maria Augustin, Jackie Ke, Marlouie Santiago, Angelica Sally, Lyka Sally, Carla Ballesteros, and Oscar Lizama.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cameron Boyer, a sixth-grade student at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 12, 2012, giving him a shot at a $25,000 college scholarship.

The school-level Bee, where students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 24th annual National Geographic Bee. This year's Bee is sponsored by Google.

Second and third place winners are sixth graders Miguel Aninon and Martin Camacho. A total of 10 students from grades 4 through 6 competed in the school's Bee.

The school winners, including Boyer, will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers on that test in each state will then be eligible to compete in their state Bee on March 30, 2012. Competition at this level will be managed differently for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, the Atlantic territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The top scorers in each of these regions will take a written test to determine their one winner.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to particpate in the Bee national championship rounds on May 22-24, 2012.

The first-place national winner will receive a $25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 24. The program will air on television.

Everyone can test their geography knowledge with the exciting GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which poses 10 new questions a day, or by downloading the "National Geographic GeoBee Challenge" app, with more than 1,000 questions culled from past Bees.

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.com. ***(PR)***

Family Funathon set for Jan. 28; all families invited to join

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Garapan Community Development Center is inviting all families to take part in the first ever Family Funathon slated for Jan. 28, from 9:30am to 5pm.

Families with at least six members are encouraged to register and participate in various games at the event. Registration begins at the center next to the Garapan basketball court on Friday, Jan. 20, from 8am to 5pm.

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Center manager Joe Diaz said yesterday that the GCDC Family Funathon is a collaboration among partner agencies: the Division of Youth Services, the CNMI Women's Association, Adult Basic Education program, Workforce Investment Agency, and the offices of House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez.

"The GCDC Family Funathon aims to get families together and give them quality bonding time," Diaz told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Diaz, families do not usually spend time together as parents are too busy with work or occupied with other responsibilities. "We want families to be mentally and physically fit to be together because a combination of the two results [in] a great family."

The event is also hoped to impede social problems that begin at home and develop teamwork and camaraderie among family members.

The event is open not just to families from Precinct 3 but also to those from other districts. Families with less than six members can still join since they can be combined with other families for more fun.

Diaz said the event will feature new and exciting family games such as "bubble brigade," "sneaker scramble," "grab bag," "wacky waiter," and "mom or dad calling." Volleyball tournaments will also be held.

There will be exciting prizes for winners, all donated by various businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Diaz urged all families to come together and take part in next Saturday's event. "More than just winning, it's about families being together and having fun."

To register or for more information, visit the center or call 233-8978 or email gcdc8978@gmail.com.

SBDC to offer free business workshops next week

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is inviting interested entrepreneurs to attend a series of workshops and get more information and resources on business startups.

"How to Start a Business" is scheduled on Jan. 24; "How to Write a Business Plan" is slated for Jan. 25; and "How to Read Your Financial Statement" will be held on Jan. 26.

Office manager Linda Cabrera said all three workshops will be held from 9am to 11am at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the ground floor of the Famila Building in Garapan.

The workshops are offered to the public for free.

The CNMI SBDC, Cabrera said, has been conducting free workshops to help potential entrepreneurs start their own business ventures. The agency is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Deadline for pre-registration on all workshops is on Monday, Jan. 23 at 12pm.

For more information, call Cabrera or Ralph Yumul at 664-3018 or email linda@pacificsbdc.com. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Rota documentary to be aired on Channel 2

A new documentary on Rota's Talakhaya Revegetation Project will be featured on Jan. 25, 2012, on Channel 2 at 6:30pm and 8:30pm.

The Talakhaya Revegetation Project was implemented in 2006, where community planting efforts were greatly increased to reduce impacts of decades of deforestation by illegal burning.

The 14-minute locally shot and produced documentary highlights the challenges they face with burning and soil erosion, revegetation efforts of the community, and the project successes throughout the years to help reduce sediment from running off of the land and polluting adjacent coral reef ecosystems. The short film will air immediately following Channel 2's evening news programs.

Funding to produce the film and run the Rota DLNR headed revegetation program came from the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative. ***(PR)***

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/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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NMC clarifies $200 international student fee

The Northern Marianas College clarified yesterday the application of the international student fee that was recently adopted by the NMC Board of Regents.

In a statement, the college emphasized that the fee only applies to international students, who are students enrolled in NMC classes through an "M" or "F" visa. Other students—including green card holders—who were incorrectly assessed this fee during the spring 2012 registration period, will be reimbursed.

"We regret any inconvenience and confusion that the application of the new international student fee may have caused," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart. "Nonetheless, we are working to refund students who were erroneously charged."

In addition to the issuance of public announcements, college staff will be personally contacting students to let them know about the refund.

"We are continuously improving the programs and services that we provide to our students as they pursue their educational goals," said Hart. "This includes correcting any errors in the soonest possible time and with minimal interruption to our students' focus on their studies."

The implementation of the fee during the spring semester was also intended to immediately offset the lack of funds to sustain its international adviser, whose primary duties involve the coordination of all academic support services for all international students. With the implementation of the new fee, the college also hopes to increase training for staff who provide direct services to all international students.

"Our experience and current work with international students have also revealed additional service needs from this student population, including translation services, academic advising services, academic tutorial services, publication of important college policies, procedures, forms, and other material in different languages, and student orientation activities to name a few," said Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services.

In the months ahead, according to Pangelinan, students should expect to see a defined space on campus equipped with resource materials and staff to address the needs of international students and to ensure that all are equipped to successfully navigate the college environment and participate fully toward achieving their academic goals as a student at NMC. ***(NMC)***

Aquaculture program sees success on Tinian

Joe San Nicolas, third from right, is shown with employees and family members displaying tilipia from his new aquaculture venture. NMC

Despite the economic downturn, the CNMI's aquaculture and agriculture sectors continue to see some positive growth in recent years due to the increased efforts of local farmers and ranchers who are taking advantage of the enormous potential for producing and marketing food commodities in the Mariana Islands and throughout the region.

Farmers like Joe San Nicolas of Tinian are expanding and diversifying their farming operations in response to the increased demand for fresh, locally grown products in the islands. San Nicolas is the owner of SN-5 Incorporated, a family operated business which just last week completed the installation of a Re-circulating Aquaculture System along the historic Broadway Street where live fish can be selected and sold to customers on-demand.

The growth of the CNMI's agriculture industry continues thanks to the efforts of people like San Nicolas who take advantage of the many advocacy groups who exist to assist businesses with technical advice on many of the aspects of farming including production techniques, options for sustainable farming, value-adding, and much more.

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, more commonly known as NMC-CREES, has worked in partnership with SN-5 Inc. and other producers in helping to set businesses on a course for success.

While helping to strengthen the local economy, a robust agriculture industry also has the added benefit of allowing for the production of export commodities, reducing the pressures on the islands' natural resources, and contributing to the availability of healthy lifestyle options for CNMI residents. Residents who are interested in pursuing agriculture and aquaculture projects are encouraged to contact the staff at NMC-CREES to access various information and resources that are available.

For more information regarding Tilapia breeding and products, contact Michael Ogo at NMC-CREES Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Program at 234-5498 Ext. 1728. ***(NMC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to an awesome and beautiful wife and mother, Julie DLR. Mendoza! Wishing you thousands of wishes, with a million hugs, and a trillion kisses. From your loving husband Ray and your children Jerry, Jiana, and Kierstin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy sweet 16 to our beautiful Chammorita, Jayna Franelle Dela Cruz Lizama! We remember when you were born 16 years ago. You warmed our hearts and we were filled with pride at your first words, first steps, first everything! Now our first-born baby girl has grown to be a remarkable and beautiful young lady. We are so proud of you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Milton, Ursula, Jeanille, Jiandra, the Batitang, Dela Cruz, Songao, and Galvan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 19, 1999

NMC students poised to protest

Students of the Northern Marianas College are set to hold a protest action infront of the Legislature on Thursday to pressure the CNMI government look for ways to fund the scholarship program. According to Shirley Santos, president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, the failure of the administration to provide financial assistance to hundreds of students may force them to drop out of school. NMC President Agnes McPhetres was informed by Vicky Villagomez special assistant, Office of Management and Budget and Mike Sablan, special advisor on budget and finance that the government will not be able to give the financial assistance because of shortage of funds.

DOLI: Labor reforms paying off

The Northern Marianas government's implementation of numerous labor and immigration reforms since the new administration took over January 12, 1998 shows dramatic decrease in labor complaints as well as significant reduction in the overall number of alien workers, according to Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark D. Zachares. Zachares strongly disputes the Interior Department's annual report which claimed that immigration, labor and trade problems remain as "troublesome as ever." Many of the issues addressed in the latest federal report are rehash of reports issued during the past four years, according to Zachares.

Jan. 19, 2000

CUC welcomes probe on 80-MW project

Unfazed by calls for investigation into the controversial Saipan power project, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday allayed fears that a new round of bidding for a smaller scale plant will incur huge expenditures of public funds. Utility officials likewise fended off criticisms leveled by some lawmakers over its decision to scrap the initial 80-megawatt plant, saying the Legislature had been informed every phase of the project since the request for proposals was issued three years ago. "CUC welcomes any inquiries regarding the decision to cancel the RFP," said Board Chair Rosario M. Elameto in a statement, the fourth released by the government-owned utility firm in five days regarding the power project.

Philippine SS System reaches out to OFWs

The Philippines' Social Security System has introduced a program aimed at providing overseas Filipino workers the opportunity to avoid interruption in their existing membership with the government-owned financial institution. At the same time, the new program allows Filipinos who wish to be part of the system and who are currently not holding Philippine SSS number to apply for voluntary membership. Filipinos here, CNMI being among OFW-host countries where there are no SSS representatives yet, are encouraged to apply by writing to the SSS main office in East Avenue, Diliman Quezon City.

Jan. 19, 2001

CUC nears completion of CK power project

Influx of federal funds into the CNMI has allowed the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to expedite the completion of the huge $2-million Chalan Kanoa electrical project, which rebuilds Saipan's oldest power systems. The money originated from the US Congress and Department of Interior, flowing to the CNMI through Capitol Improvements Project funding. "It's one of our strongest electrical systems now," said CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez. The utility began ordering supplies in February 1999. Today, 264 power poles are installed, holding 117 new transformers powerful enough to energize modern appliances and big enough to handle extra customers.

Gov't preparing major homestead projects

The Office of Public Lands yesterday disclosed it is proceeding with its planned development projects for village and agricultural homestead on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. On Saipan, the Tanapag Heights Homestead project, located in As-Mahettok, is currently undergoing biological studies and subdivision design. It is expected to yield over 300 village homestead lots. Studies and subdivision design in Marpi Point (Suicide Cliff Area) and Koblerville will start as soon as the contracts for services are signed. Another proposed subdivision in I Maddok is being coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers for development through the ACOE Planning Assistance to the States program.

Coral reef disease hits Kāneohe Bay in Hawaii

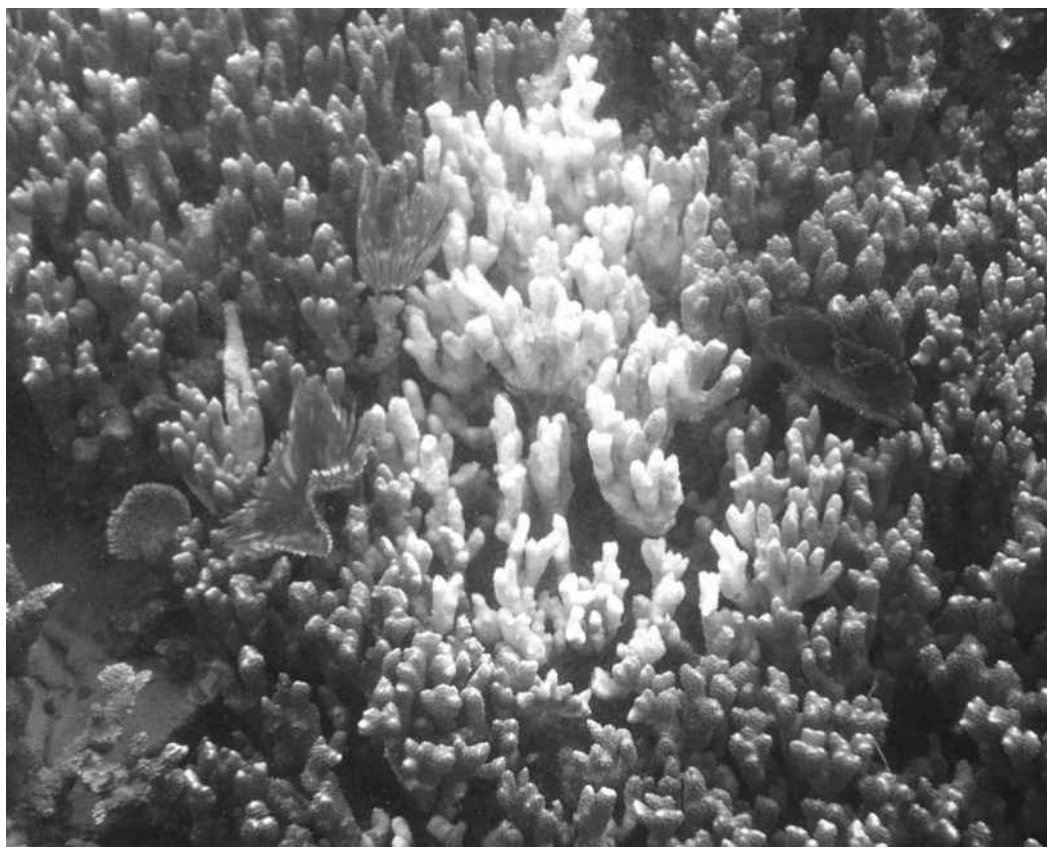
Scientists have discovered an outbreak of coral disease called Montipora White Syndrome in Kāneohe Bay, Oahu. The affected coral are of the species *Montipora capitata*, also known as rice coral.

Rice corals provide valuable habitat, shelter, and foraging grounds for a variety of tropical marine fish and invertebrates and provide the fundamental structure of coral reefs. Rice corals are especially important to Hawaii's marine ecosystems because they are one of the more abundant coral reef species in the region.

Thus, loss of corals can have negative effects on many other reef-associated organisms. In fact, losing a coral reef is similar to losing a rainforest, with many species reliant on that ecosystem for survival.

In addition, coral reefs in Hawaii are an important source of tourism and other economic income (fisheries). For example, Kāneohe Bay, where this outbreak is concentrated, is a popular spot frequented by snorkelers, bathers, divers, boaters and fishermen.

While this particular disease outbreak seems limited to south Kāneohe Bay, coral diseases have the potential to be widespread, affecting large geographic regions. A prime example is the Western Atlantic and Caribbean where large tracts of coral reefs have either declined or disappeared due to diseases.



USGS

Coral reef affected by Montipora White Syndrome. Note the large swath of white skeleton tissue surrounded by normal (brown) corals.

Science helping protect the reefs

The investigation of this recent outbreak has been led by the University of Hawaii's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology in collaboration with University of Hawaii, West Oahu, and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center Honolulu Field Station.

Current efforts are focused on determining the extent of the outbreak and collecting samples for laboratory analysis. On a longer-term scale, all three partner organizations are trying to devise better methods to detect coral disease and determine their cause.

For the most part, the causes of coral diseases are unknown. Since biologists do not know yet precisely what is killing corals, this has complicated management of coral reef diseases. Scientists are investigating many possible causes, including host immunity, host physiology, potential infectious agents like bacteria or parasites, and environmental variables such as increased seawater temperatures associated with climate change or land-based sources of pollution.

The USGS is one of the few organizations globally that has applied biomedical tools to investigate animal diseases to coral reefs (yes, corals are animals too). The USGS's focus in this particular outbreak is to characterize the changes seen in sick corals by looking at the whole coral (what we see with the naked eye) as well as at the cellular level (under the microscope). The USGS is also developing other laboratory tools to help enhance our understanding of coral diseases with the eventual goal of pinpointing the causes of such important diseases.

What Is Montipora White Syndrome?

Corals are basically modified anemones, which are a group of predatory—and often strikingly pretty—marine organisms related to jellyfish. Corals secrete a calcium carbonate skeleton covered by a thin layer of tissues that form the foundation of coral reefs. Montipora White Syndrome affects the rice coral and involves loss of tissues from the coral until the underlying white skeleton is revealed/exposed, hence the name "white syndrome."

History of outbreak and future risks

Based on surveys done since 2006 by the University of Hawaii and USGS, Montipora White Syndrome has historically been documented in coral reefs in Kāneohe Bay, albeit at low levels with scattered, isolated colonies affected. Large-scale outbreaks involving multiple coral colonies over a larger geographic area have only been documented since March 2011 and this recent event.

The reasons for this increase in outbreaks are presently unknown. Tissue loss diseases like white syndrome are particularly insidious in that they result in immediate loss of coral cover. Often, dead corals are then overgrown by algae, leading to permanent reduction in corals reefs and a change in the ecosystem from a coral-dominated to an algae-dominated reef.

Whether this will be the case here remains to be seen.

The USGS and partner scientists are actively involved in trying to better understand Montipora White Syndrome and other coral diseases. This will allow managers to also determine the environmental drivers of those causes, leading to better intervention and strategies to protect coral reefs. ***(USGS)***

Tahiti leader pushes for return of nuclear atolls

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The French Polynesian president Oscar Temaru has called for street protests should France refuse to return the two atolls used for its nuclear weapons tests.

Mr. Temaru made the call as one of the territory's senators, Richard Tuheiava, is to submit a proposed law in Paris seeking the atolls' return and a review of the compensation offered for the tests' impact.

His comment comes as the territorial assembly in Tahiti endorsed the senator's initiative with 30 of the 57 votes.

He says if France refuses to give back what belongs to the Polynesians, people should close their homes and the administration to take to the streets in protest.

Mr. Temaru says Paris should be told that it render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's.

The two atolls Moruroa and Fangataufa were ceded to France at no cost in 1964 to allow its military to begin testing its nuclear weapons.

[PIR editor's note: Moruroa and Fangataufa are part of the Tuamotu Archipelago, east of territory's capital in Papeete. The two islands were used as nuclear weapon testing sites in the late 1960s by the French government which made use of ship-based, bomb, and atmospheric detonation trials. Recently, former president of French PolynesiaGaston Tong Sang spoke out against proposed changes to compensations laws involving French nuclear testing in the region. French Polynesia's Union for Democracy party has criticized Tong Sang, saying although there are "urgent problems facing the territory, there is still room to stand up for the test victims."]

Toys for Tots drive amasses 4,058 toys worth $44,298

GUAM—Marine Forces Pacific Guam and CNMI celebrates an incredibly successful 2011 Toys for Tots campaign. The goal of doubling the 2010 campaign's total of 1,359 donated toys worth almost $13,000 was hit outside the ballpark with the 2011 campaign's total of 4,058 toys worth $44,298.

Supporters of the Toys for Tots program will be recognized at the Guam Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting on Jan. 25. The meeting opens with 11:30am lunch at the Sheraton Laguna Resort Ballroom.

According to a statement from the Marine Corps Activity – Guam, "The overwhelming success was only possible because of the generosity and selfless commitment of our island community. Guam's Catholic Social Services, Alee Shelter, the Salvation Army and Southern Christian Academy are the most qualified to identify the needy children in our community and played a critical role in the distribution of the toys. Consequently parents on Guam were able to ensure each of their children received a large toy and a small toy for a stocking stuffer. We hope next year's campaign will be even better as The Marine Corps Reserve believes that "Every Child deserves a Little Christmas."

Since 1947, Toys for Tots has been making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate children in approximately 500 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This was the second year Guam was listed as an official Toys for Tots coordination center and its success has grown exponentially. ***(PR)***

Guam sees drop in tobacco sales to minors

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Tobacco sales to minors have remained under 12 percent since 2007 in Guam, according to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse – Prevention and Training Branch yesterday. Recent tobacco vendor monitoring survey results show a decline in illegal tobacco sales to minors; from 10.2 percent in 2010 to 7.8 percent in 2011. The federal fiscal year 2010 national weighted average is 9.3 percent (Retail Violation Rates).

This federal mandate (referred to as Synar) is aimed at reducing tobacco sales to minors. Guam conducts unannounced tobacco vendor inspections and compliance checks every year. In September last year, 23 stores were in violation of Guam Public Law 24-278 (also known as the Tobacco Control Act of 1998) and were assessed fines ranging from $500 for a first-time violation, up to $5,000.

DMHSA partnered with the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation to conduct and report the results of the Synar compliance checks.

"The Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation is in-charge of tobacco-retailer licensing and tobacco law enforcement," said director John Camacho. "Also, we provide merchants education to guide them on compliance. The outcome of this year's compliance checks is the result of the hard work by our field agents and the youth volunteer inspectors."

Camacho commended the 273 of 296 tobacco retailers who complied with the law and who passed the Synar inspection. "We look forward to the day when Guam's merchants are 100 percent in compliance and are fully committed to doing their part in keeping Guam's youth safe from tobacco use."

Director Wilfred Aflague of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse also thanked agency partners for their efforts and collaboration, "including the Department of Revenue and Taxation – Alcohol Beverage Control Branch and General Licensing Branch, and the Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam organization. We will continue to explore ways to work together to help Guam further decrease the risks associated with tobacco use and abuse." ***(PR)***

Faleomavaega: Locals eroding Am. Samoa land practices

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's U.S. congressman, Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, says the communal land tenure system is being eroded by locals, not foreigners

Opponents of a proposal by the congressman to allow alien permanent residents to apply for U.S. national status say that communal land may end up in the hands of foreigners.

But Faleomavaega says chiefs of families are parceling out communal land, which then ends up in a different category of land ownership that is not even established by law.

"I will always contend that the land is the umbilical cord that ties our people and our society to our culture. Once you break the trusteeship relationship between the matai and his responsibility as trustee of his communal lands there will be no more Samoan culture. And I am afraid this is happening because our own government and our own people are doing this."

Further concerns raised over the new immigration initiatives have drawn attention to the possibility of U.S. government agencies assuming control over immigration laws, which the American Samoa government currently legislates. Some proponents say the territory is in need of stricter immigration regulations to control foreigners, particularly from Asia, while others say bill that would allow U.S. nationals from the territory to apply for U.S. citizenship without leaving the territory may attract more immigrants.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

And then there were five

If the nation were holding a pundit primary, Jon Huntsman would be well on his way to nomination. But in the Republican presidential primary, he could barely get a sniff. On Monday, Huntsman called it quits, offering a backhanded endorsement of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as "the candidate best equipped to defeat Barack Obama."

The press, which saw a lot to like in Huntsman, has plenty of explanations for why Republicans didn't. His foreign relations experience under three presidents was discounted because one of them happened to be Obama (the other two were both named Bush)—never mind that he attacked Obama's policies on Libya and Afghanistan. His conservative record as governor of Utah was sullied by his willingness to break ranks on evolution and climate change and on social issues like civil unions for gay couples.

So we know the GOP doesn't want Huntsman. What does it want? Romney, maybe. With Iowa and New Hampshire in the bag, polls show him leading by double digits in Saturday's South Carolina primary.

But there's this odd disconnect between the force that gave the Republican Party its new energy—all those tea partiers—and its likely nominee for president. Evangelical leaders' endorsement of former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum over the weekend shows many conservatives are still casting about for a not-Romney candidate.

With that supply almost exhausted, though, Republicans may be grudgingly coming around to Romney as their best hope to win the White House. That's what Huntsman is doing. It's what he's urging GOP voters to do, too.

A week ago, Huntsman insisted Romney's "record of uncertainty"—his habit of repositioning himself on issues including abortion, gay marriage, immigration, health care—poisoned his credibility among conservatives. "People wonder where your core is," Huntsman said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Romney, he said, is "completely unelectable."

The latest Gallup numbers, though, show Romney is the only candidate rated "acceptable" by a majority of both conservative and moderate Republicans, polling 59 percent among both groups. Romney is widely regarded as the most electable Republican. But if that's the best you can say about him, he's in trouble.

Four years ago, the rap on Romney was that he was a carefully manufactured candidate. Glossing over the more liberal positions he'd taken earlier in his career, Romney sought to position himself as a social conservative to distinguish himself from the unapologetically independent-minded John McCain. "I won't obscure my positions to voters who might not share them," said McCain, and Huntsman couldn't have said it better. With McCain and Huntsman, at least, you knew where they stood relative to your own positions on whatever issues mattered to you.

Romney seems to grow more elastic with time. It's so curious to listen to the architect of mandated health care for Massachusetts thunder against mandated health care for the nation.

One glimmer we see: Romney's steady and passionate defense of his work at Bain Capital has been a pleasant surprise. He's not going to apologize for the rewards and risks of venture capitalism, nor should he.

Romney is down to four opponents, and in a few weeks, he could be the last candidate standing. He needs to start convincing voters now that he's more than a survivor.

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I OPPOSE GAY MARRIAGE.
NEWT
WHY?
BECAUSE MARRIAGE IS A SACRED BOND...
BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN...
Judge ©2012 KANSAS CITY STAR /judge@kcstar.com
AND TWO MORE WOMEN.

Iran gives the West a gift

By PAUL V. KANE
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The most recent threat by Iran to block the Strait of Hormuz and choke off the flow of the world's oil supply, while frightening to some, really represents a golden opportunity.

Truly, it's been a decade of cat-and-mouse games between U.N. inspectors trying genuinely to peek under the hood of Iran's "peaceful" nuclear program and Iranians misdirecting, parsing, spinning and lying, all the while putting up new secret nuclear facilities and acquiring nuclear components from the global black market.

Over 10 long years, the international community has alternated between the extremes of totally ignoring Iran, to being engaged but exasperated by a lack of good options, to saber-rattling threats of war. From a political standpoint, it's been a manic decade.

The political classes in the West and Asia seem to be divided into two camps; the advocates for diplomacy and negotiation, or, the proponents of bombing Iran's nuclear sites. But then a gift arrived, ironically, from Iran.

Senior Iranian political and military officials in December threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz and prevent oil from flowing to world markets. Iran's threat came in response to teethy new U.S.-European sanctions being signed.

These sanctions squeeze Iran's Central Bank from being able to sell Iran's oil. They penalize those members of the global community who continue to trade with Iran.

This is not an act of war (as Iran claims), but it will extract a damn painful economic price. So Iran has set a new "red line" with the West, should the latest sanctions hit.

Iran has said it will attack the global economy and hurt the West and her Asian allies by creating a spike in oil prices and cutting available supplies by way of blocking the vulnerable Strait of Hormuz.

The Strait of Hormuz is by far the world's most important choke point through which 20 percent of all oil traded worldwide passes. The threat betrays a mounting desperation within Iran and it gives the West options it has lacked to date. How so?

Iran has promised to militarily block the Strait if the new sanctions take effect. With this act, Iran will have taken overt aggression against not just the West but the world.

So where is the gift in this tale?

The world economy can hardly be held hostage to Iran's whims and U.S. leaders will be left with the responsibility of unblocking the Strait of Hormuz using force. So now instead of there being just two unattractive options for dealing with Iran (diplomacy vs. military force)—a new, "third way" is available.

As soon as the first Iranian mines hit the water to block the Strait of Hormuz to stop oil flows, Iran would have committed an act of war against the world economy. The international community and the U.S. would have great latitude for military action to free the Strait.

How could this unfold? A military plan would have to include the elimination of the offending Iranian ships or subs laying mines and the destruction of missiles that might menace shipping. Most of Iran's navy would find itself gracing the bottom of the sea. Major U.S. Marine amphibious landings on Iran's coast and Army airborne drops deep inside the sparsely populated Hormozgan region would seize and create a physical cordon, an occupied buffer zone between Iran and the Strait.

It would be a very long time before the West gave this territory back to Iran.

The threat to the Strait and shipping would be eliminated. The United States would have the advantage of "strategic surprise." The Iranian leadership is comfortable today in the false notion that the seizure of sovereign Iranian territory is inconceivable.

Most important, by seizing Hormozgan, the West would have a forward base from within Iran to conduct attacks on the known nuclear sites. No longer could Iran find a sense of security in how difficult it would be for Israel or the West to conduct a long-range air attack from thousands of miles away on its nuclear sites.

Strike aircraft (and now, more worrisome to Iran's regime, the boots on the ground of elite Special Forces) would be just 60-90 minutes away from Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran's threat to block the Strait has given the West far clearer options. Played right, the current situation can be made into a game changer. By changing the calculus and dynamics of the negotiation, the current impasse can be broken. A diplomatic solution to the crisis might become far more attractive to Iran.

No sane person wants a war. As long as the pressure on Iran is real and mounting, diplomacy will likely have a much better chance of succeeding.

There now exists the opportunity for the West to leverage upon Iran's threat, and make it clear that should Iran block the Strait (or should any conflict arise), it will mean the punitive seizure of Iran's southern state of Hormozgan.

Perhaps in this way a military conflict between the West and Iran can be averted and a peaceful deal done. This may be the best way today to end the threat and, to finally, end Iran's rogue nuclear weapon adventure.

Paul Kane is a Marine veteran of Iraq and a former fellow of Harvard's International Security Program. He wrote this for McClatchy Newspapers.

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Paradigm shifts in service

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches business owners to develop consistently profitable businesses that can operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

While attending an intensive, 10-day training program in Las Vegas for a business coaching franchise, I went on a tour at the headquarters of Zappos.com. It was an insightful visit that presented concepts that flew in the face of conventional business practices, yet has allowed the company to achieve phenomenal growth.

In case you haven't heard of Zappos.com, they started in 1999 and after making minimal gross sales their first year, they went on to earn $1.6 million in 2000 selling shoes online. Now, I don't know about you, but I've rarely bought shoes online because it's one of those things that you need to try on first and walk around a bit to make sure the shoes are a right fit.

Well, there must be a lot of people that don't think like me because their sales continued to grow each year because their focus was on giving great service. CEO Tony Hsieh summarized a paradigm shift that helped reposition the company to achieve meteoric growth by stating: "Back in 2003, we thought of ourselves as a shoe company that offered great service. Today, we really think of the Zappos brand as about great service, and we just happen to sell shoes."

A paradigm shift is basically a change from one way of thinking to another, sort of a mindset metamorphosis where individuals begin to think in a new and different way. The term was first coined by Thomas Kuhn when he argued that scientific advancement is a "series of peaceful interludes punctuated by intellectually violent revolutions," and those revolutions have "one conceptual world view replaced by another."

With Zappos.com, it is a subtle shift in the ultimate purpose of the company, and the critical role everyone has as agents of service who are ready to go above and beyond the expectations of their customers. The company had a goal to reach one billion dollars in sales by 2010, and they achieved it by 2008. When I was there in November, they had just experienced their biggest day on Cyber Monday (a few days after Thanksgiving Day) by answering over 14,000 calls and making sales of $16 million in one day!

I have been a student and teacher of customer service for over 20 years. I developed the first accredited customer service course at Northern Marianas College, have written numerous articles published in the paper on the topic, and have worked with dozens of businesses to implement better service. And from my studies, I have concluded that most service training focuses on making external changes by training employees to smile more, use a person's name, and behave in a certain manner.

Zappos.com and many other great service companies apply an inside-out approach to service by changing the mindset of its employees and instilling core values that help transform their culture. Values and culture are such an important component of the company, that they have a division that is called the Culture Department. In fact, our tour guide, Rocco, worked in the department and introduced himself a "culture magician."

Extraordinarily successful companies have achieved paradigm shifts that have separated themselves from the competition and allowed them to achieve outstanding performance. Even though these mindset shifts are simple to understand, they can be very difficult to change in a company because it involves a change in attitude, thoughts, and behaviors that must start at the top and be sustained at the bottom. In other words, there has to be a cultural shift among everyone in the organization. I believe that the companies that will survive in the CNMI and continue to thrive are those that are currently implementing important paradigm shifts or who will learn to make them a part of their business in the future.

I will be making a presentation to the Society of Human Resource Management on Thursday, Jan. 26, from 11:30am to 1:00pm that will discuss the essential paradigm shifts needed to emulate companies that offer great service. You will learn how companies, such as Zappos.com, have been able to perform extraordinarily well, while their competitors continue to struggle. In addition, you'll learn how the concept of Life Transitions can create a top-of-mind awareness that positions you as the trusted authority to your prospects and customers.

This will be my last public presentation on Saipan because I'll be retiring from NMC on the 27th of January and will soon leave to be a business coach with ActionCoach International in the Las Vegas area. If you're interested in attending the presentation, contact your human resource representative or someone from SHRM.

If calendars change, end of world can't come too soon

By KEVIN HORRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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Please excuse me if you've already read about this—I'm always the last guy to know—but apparently some people are unhappy with the calendar. In other calendar news, the world apparently is going to end next Dec. 21, according to the Mayan calendar.

About this latter point, apparently many people in pseudo-scientific circles have been worrying about it for decades. Me, I only began to worry about it after seeing a John Cusack movie on cable.

The deal is that the Mayan "Long Count" calendar, which began in 3114 B.C., is set to "run out" after 5,126 years, meaning this year, specifically on Dec. 21. So if you usually do your Christmas shopping early, you might want to hold off.

Apparently there is some dispute about that Dec. 21 date, which some experts say could be off by as much as 60 days, owing to variations in how different calendars count dates. This is the part about the Mayan calendar debate I love best—"Of course the ancient Mayans correctly predicted the end of the world, but they were off by a few weeks."

The calendar we use is called the Gregorian calendar, named after either Post-Dispatch reporter Vahe Gregorian, who uses it to cover Mizzou sports, or Pope Gregory XIII, who issued it back in 1582, when popes had some real clout. If you believe in the Mayan deal, both explanations are equally plausible.

Some people who are really, really picky worry that the Gregorian calendar is imprecise and/or awkward. Because it takes the Earth 365 days and six hours or so to orbit the sun, you have to add an extra day every four years to make things come out even, plus rejigger the clocks for a "leap second" every now and then.

As someone who often gets through a day without knowing the date, I don't understand this yearning for more precision. Close enough is good enough.

But right before the New Year, I read in Wired magazine about these two guys at Johns Hopkins University who are calendar reformers. Economist Steve Hanke and astronomer Richard Cohn Henry have developed what they modestly call the Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar.

Under their calendar—a refined version of one developed in 1996 by a guy named Bob McClenon—every date would always fall on the same day of the week. Instead of your birthday, for example, moving ahead one day of the week each year (and two days every leap year), it always would fall on the same day.

Christmas and New Year's Day always would be on Sundays, which Hanke and Hart say would help the economy because people wouldn't be sneaking two weeks off. March 17, St. Patrick's Day, always would be on a Saturday, which would make bar owners happy. The Fourth of July always would fall on a Wednesday, which might work out to a five-day weekend for some people. Halloween, Oct. 31, always would—oops, sorry. No Oct. 31.

The Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar divides the year into equal quarters of 91 days. Each quarter has two 30-day months followed by a 31-day month. Alas, October would be a 30-day month, so you'd have to trick-or-treat on the 30th, which still would be All Hallow's Eve because the next day is Nov. 1, All Saints Day.

If Oct. 31—or Jan. 31, May 31, July 31 or Aug. 31—is your birthday, you're out of luck.

This all works out to a 364-day year and no leap years. Hanke and Henry make this up by adding an extra week or "mini-month"—which they call "Extra" or "Xtr"—at the end of December every five or six years, which also more or less aligns the months with the seasons. Otherwise, sooner or later baseball weather would be starting in January.

Hanke and Henry say there are "enormous economic advantages" to their calendar. "How much needless work do institutions, such as companies and colleges, put into arranging their calendars for every coming year?" their website asks.

I don't know the answer, but how hard could it be?

Not content to just mess with the calendar, Hanke and Hart also want to do away with time zones and impose Universal Time around the world. It would be the same time everywhere, only darker in some places.

Right now, St. Louis is six hours behind Coordinated Universal Time, which is sort of what used to be called Greenwich Mean Time. Under the new system, if you start work at 8 a.m., you would show up at 1400 UTC (the acronym was a compromise with the French, who can be difficult), which right now is 2 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Instead of knocking off at 5 p.m., you would be off at 2300. The 10 o'clock news would be the 0400 News.

Hanke and Hart say this would result in "greatly facilitating international understanding." How, I don't know. I'm already confused.

Still, it's nice to know that if the world is going to end on Dec. 21 this year, it will be on a Wednesday, not a Friday. I wouldn't want to work those two extra days if I didn't have to.

Letters to the Editor

A window of opportunity

A recent article written in the *Washington Post* highlighted the Obama administration's plan to reward companies that relocate jobs back to the U.S. Part of the plan being mulled is a tax credit for bringing back an overseas job particularly in hard hit sectors such as manufacturing or call centers. It would be prudent for the CNMI to take notice of this. If the tax credits are approved, the CNMI could position itself with its lower minimum wage rate to become a fertile ground for some of these companies, specifically call centers.

If the CNMI is truly interested in an idea to save its struggling economy, now is the time to research which U.S. companies are operating call centers overseas and approach them now—not after the fact. If the tax credit is passed, the CNMI should have already marketed and positioned itself with a full package of incentives to attract these businesses.

I consistently read the local news articles about the plight of the CNMI economy and often ask myself what is the most negative repetitive theme in these articles. You can insert your own answer to that question at this point. As far as business investors are concerned, it's probably the contractual disputes that cannot be resolved properly due to some type of prejudice or misrepresentation. Maybe its the high cost of utilities or the lack of a properly trained workforce, I don't know. But whatever the problem is, it can be solved. By taking an honest assessment of past shortcomings and admitting to them, the first step in resolving the problems can be taken.

If the CNMI decides to continue functioning under the past status quo and hoping for different results, it will have achieved that famous definition of insanity. The CNMI can turn things around. If you offer outstanding incentives and write agreements that legally protect and favor the investor, why wouldn't they come? The CNMI should ask itself what is better: To almost give something away for free to get something? Or should you negotiate on a foundation of greed and corruption and get nothing?

Jack Schimdt
Poontang, Indiana

Betel nut and cancer

Reading the article concerning lifting the ban on trading of betel nut between Saipan and Guam, it sounds like it is a positive step to save our economy on the island. However, has anybody looked into the effect of betel nut on the health of the people of the islands and the proven and historical story of betel nut chewing and fatal cancer development in India? In fact, you do not need to go to India. Please come to CHC, you'll see a case every week.

Shun Young, MD FACS
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

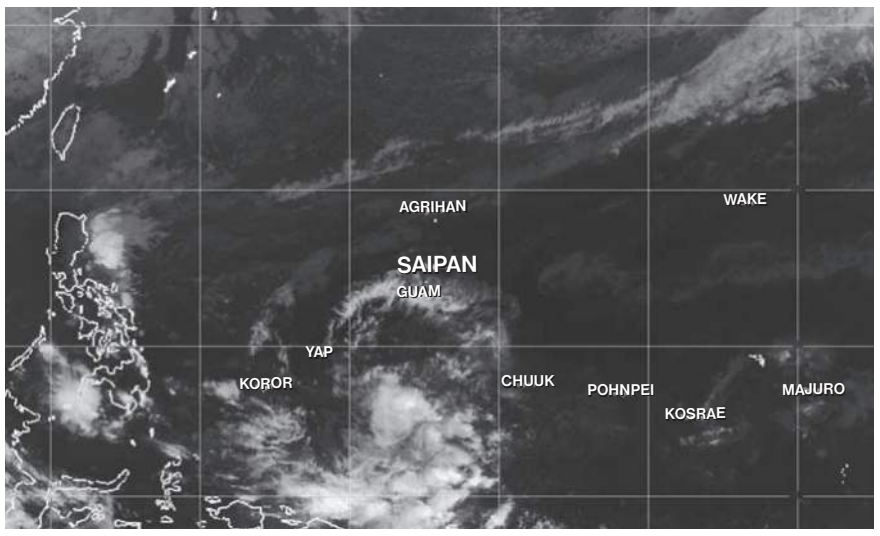
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲83	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼64
Beijing	Snow	▲36	▼16
Hong Kong	Showers	▲68	▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲46	▼42
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲82	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼62
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲36	▼28
Osaka	Showers	▲52	▼40
Paris	Rain	▲47	▼42
Pusan	Showers	▲49	▼43
Rome	Showers	▲60	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼44
San Francisco	Rain	▲54	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲42	▼31
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼38
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼30

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N165E to Pagan in the far Northern CNMI at 18N145E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and northwest of the cold front to beyond 25N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 100 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough heads eastward from 3N130E to a circulation centered at 4N144E then turns southeastward to end at EQ152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Koror and Yap and also south of Guam or south of a line from EQ136E to 7N141E to 6N150E. An old shear line curves east-northeastward from east of Guam at 13N153E to south of Wake Island at 14N167E to beyond the date line at 16N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 160 miles north of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers east of Kosrae and just west of Kwajalein within 50 miles of a line from 3N163E to 9N167E. Similar weather exists northeast of Majuro in an area bounded by a line from 10N168E to 9N177E to 5N175E back to 10N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:35 AM	2:11 PM
Friday	3:36 AM	3:10 PM
Saturday	4:35 AM	4:10 PM
Sunday	5:30 AM	5:10 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	6:08 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang leaving company

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang is leaving the struggling Internet company, as it tries to revive its revenue growth and win over disgruntled shareholders under a new leader.

The surprise departure, announced Tuesday, comes just two weeks after Yahoo Inc. hired former PayPal executive Scott Thompson as its CEO.

Thompson is the fourth CEO in less than five years to try to turn around Yahoo—a challenge that Yang was unable to pull off during his own tumultuous 18-month reign as the company's CEO in 2007 and 2008.

Yang, 43, endorsed Thompson in his resignation from Yahoo's board of directors. He had been on Yahoo's board since the company's 1995 inception.

"My time at Yahoo, from its founding to the present, has encompassed some of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my life," Yang wrote in a letter to Yahoo Chairman Roy Bostock. "However, the time has come for me to pursue other interests outside of Yahoo."

The letter didn't say what Yang plans to do next. He doesn't need to work, thanks to the fortune he has amassed since he began working on Yahoo in a trailer at Stanford University with fellow graduate student David Filo. Yang is worth about $1.1 billion, according to Forbes magazine's latest estimates.

Yang is also stepping down from the boards of China's Alibaba Group and Yahoo Japan. Yahoo is negotiating to sell its stakes in both of the Asian companies as part of its efforts to placate investors. The deal could be worth as much as $17 billion, but still faces a series of potentially daunting obstacles before it gets done.

Besides surrendering the board seats, Yang is giving up his position as "Chief Yahoo," an honorary title he held as he mingled among workers, while keeping tabs on various company projects.

Thompson could have an easier time overhauling Yahoo without Yang looking over his shoulder and possibly second guessing his decisions, said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis.

"This has the fingerprints of frustration on it," Gillis said. "It's one of those situations where it looks like he is losing the battle to control the company's direction and now he is saying, `That's it, I'm out.'"

Although a popular figure among Yahoo employees, Yang had alienated the company's shareholders by turning down a chance to sell Yahoo in its entirety to Microsoft Corp. for $47.5 billion, or $33 per share, in May 2008. Yahoo shares haven't topped $20 for more than three years. The stock gained 47 cents to $15.90 in extended trading after Yang's decision was announced.

AP

In this Jan. 7, 2008 file photo of Yahoo CEO Jerry Yang gestures in the Yahoo booth after he gave his keynote address at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.

Wikipedia editors question site's planned blackout

NEW YORK (AP)—Can the world live without Wikipedia for a day? The planned shutdown of one of the Internet's most-visited sites is not sitting well with some of its volunteer editors, who say the protest of anti-piracy legislation could threaten the credibility of their work.

"My main concern is that it puts the organization in the role of advocacy, and that's a slippery slope," said editor Robert Lawton, a Michigan computer consultant who would prefer that the encyclopedia stick to being a neutral repository of knowledge. "Before we know it, we're blacked out because we want to save the whales."

Wikipedia will shut down access to its English-language site for 24 hours beginning at midnight Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday. Instead of encyclopedia articles, visitors will see information about the two congressional bills and details about how to reach lawmakers.

It is the first time the English site has been blacked out. Wikipedia's Italian site came down once briefly in protest to an Internet censorship bill put forward by the Berlusconi government. The bill did not advance.

The shutdown adds to a growing body of critics who are speaking out against the legislation. But some editors are so uneasy with the move that they have blacked out their own user profile pages or resigned their administrative rights on the site to protest. Some likened the site's decision to fighting censorship with censorship.

One of the site's own "five pillars" of conduct says that Wikipedia "is written from a neutral point of view." The site strives to "avoid advocacy, and we characterize information and issues rather than debate them."

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales argues that the site can maintain neutrality in content even as it takes public positions on issues.

"The encyclopedia will always be neutral. The community need not be, not when the encyclopedia is threatened," he tweeted.

The Wikimedia Foundation, which administers the site, announced the blackout late Monday, after polling its community of volunteer contributors and editors and getting responses from 1,800 of them. The protest is aimed at the Stop Online Piracy Act in the House and the Protect Intellectual Property Act under consideration in the Senate.

"If passed, this legislation will harm the free and open Internet and bring about new tools for censorship of international websites inside the United States," the foundation said.

SkyTeam introduces SkyPriority for top customers

AMSTERDAM—SkyTeam, the global airline alliance, yesterday announced the introduction of SkyPriority, a series of distinctively branded priority airport services offered to Elite Plus, First and Business Class customers.

SkyPriority has been developed to ensure a common and consistent service standard for priority airport services across the alliance. The roll-out of the program will start in March 2012 at selected hubs. SkyPriority will gradually be implemented at 800+ stations in the course of the next few months, reaching over 1,000 airports by early 2013.

SkyPriority will align all members to a common and consistent service standard for priority airport services across the alliance. The distinctive SkyPriority branding will help customers clearly find their way and travel faster through the airport. At the same time, it will be easier for airport staff to recognize and assist eligible customers.

Founding SkyTeam member Delta Air Lines created the SkyPriority brand and rolled out the product to its customers in 2010. Due to the success of the project, SkyTeam has adopted the program, making it the first global airline alliance to consistently offer these priority services on a worldwide scale, with all current and future members participating.

SkyPriority services will include:

- Priority check-in areas
- Priority baggage drop-off
- Priority service at airport ticket offices
- Priority service at transfer desks
- Priority lines at security, where available
- Priority boarding
- Priority baggage handling

"SkyPriority is one part of our ongoing effort to improve the customer experience. By increasing consistency at airports, we make travel faster and more convenient for our customers," said Michael Wisbrun, SkyTeam's managing director. "This is the biggest collective SkyTeam project to date and a prime example of how our members are extensively working together to bring greater benefits to our customers."

SkyPriority services will be distinctively branded at airports worldwide and the SkyPriority indicator will be displayed on eligible passengers' boarding passes. The brand concept will be applied to each individual airline's existing identity, enabling passengers to instantly recognize SkyPriority services at any airport.

Each member airline has its own implementation date and roll-out timeline. Some of the first airports where SkyPriority will be launched are Amsterdam, Atlanta, Guangzhou, Nairobi, Shanghai and Taipei. By early 2013, SkyPriority will be visible at over 1,000 airports. Following this initial roll-out, additional SkyPriority benefits will be introduced in the future. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Average age of US vehicles hits record 10.8 years

DETROIT (AP)—That clunker in America's driveway has reached a record old age, but there are signs that people may be growing confident enough in the economy to get a whiff of that fresh new car scent very soon. The average age of a car or truck in the U.S. hit a record 10.8 years last year as job security and other economic worries kept many people from making big-ticket purchases such as a new car. That's up from the old record of 10.6 years in 2010, and it and continues a trend that dates to 1995, when the average age of a car was 8.4 years, according to a study of state vehicle registration data by the Southfield, Mich.-based Polk automotive research firm.

Airbus takes record orders in 2011, beating Boeing

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—Airbus took in a record number of orders for new commercial aircraft last year as strong demand for its revamped single-aisle plane helped it best U.S. rival Boeing Co. in the race for orders for the fourth year running. The European jet maker said Tuesday that it took in 1,419 net new orders in 2011, worth $140 billion, well above Boeing's total of 805 aircraft. That topped the previous record of 1,413 net orders recorded by Boeing in 2007. Airbus also delivered 534 aircraft last year, up from 510 a year earlier and keeping the title of world's biggest jet maker that it has held since 2003. Boeing delivered 477 aircraft in 2011.

Kraft Foods to cut up to 1,600 positions

NORTHFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Kraft Foods Inc. will cut 1,600 positions in North America as it prepares to split its business in two. The Northfield, Ill.-based food company said Tuesday that it plans to eliminate the positions throughout the U.S. and Canada during the coming year. The cuts will be made among its sales, corporate and other business units. About 20 percent of the job eliminations are currently open positions. Kraft has roughly 127,000 employees worldwide, including 46,500 in North America.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,482.07	1,293.67	2,728.08
+60.01	+4.58	+17.41
+0.48%	+0.36%	+0.64%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9625	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7628	Philippine Peso	43.505
British Pound	0.6516	Indian Rupee	50.635	Singapore Dollar	1.2827
Canadian Dollar	1.0146	Indonesian Rupiah	9160	South Korean Won	1141.75
Chinese Yuan	6.3124	Japanese Yen	76.683	Swiss Franc	0.9467
Euro	0.7829	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1185	Taiwan Dollar	29.9458
		New Zealand Dollar	1.246	Thailand Baht	31.785

Nation

Romney says he pays US taxes—about 15 percent

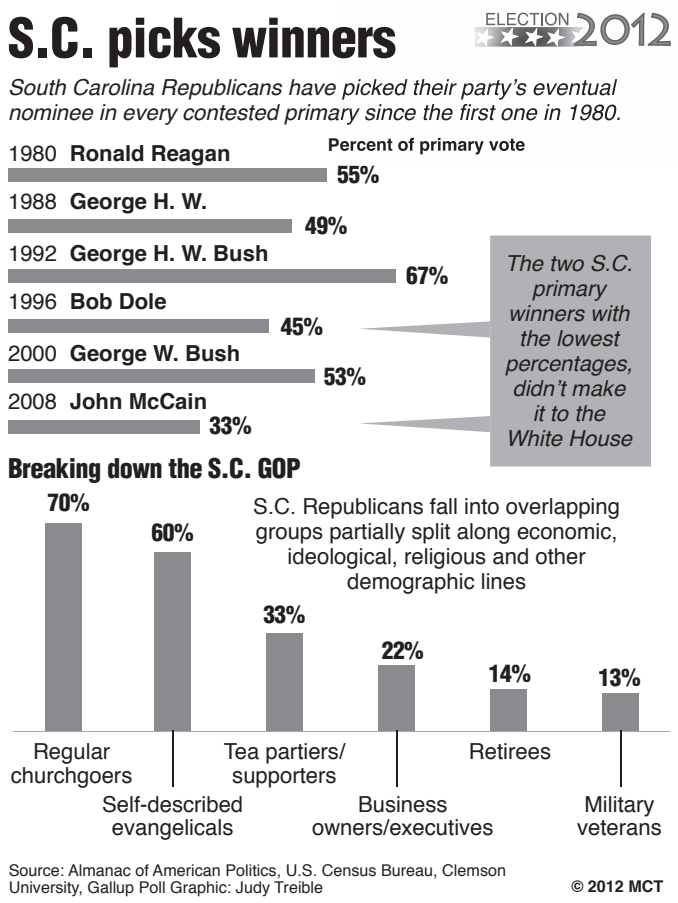
FLORENCE, S.C. (AP)—His wealth and taxes suddenly a campaign focus, Mitt Romney said Tuesday he pays an effective federal tax rate of about 15 percent. That's far less than if his earnings were wages rather than gains from investments and dividends, and the disclosure under pressure triggered a sharp response from the Democratic White House as well as one of his GOP presidential rivals.

Romney told reporters he also received money from speechmaking before he announced his presidential candidacy early last year "but not very much." He provided no details, but in his financial disclosure statement, released last August, he reported being paid $374,327.62 for such appearances for the 12 months ending last February.

That amount alone would place his income among the top 1 percent of all Americans, and Romney's description of it as a relatively small amount suggested his overall income was far higher.

It's well known that Romney's father was the chairman and president of America Motors, and he himself was a successful businessman and founder of Bain Capital, a private equity firm, where he earned millions. At the same time, his refusal to release his tax returns has been a persistent issue, and one that flared anew in a debate Monday night in which he grudgingly said he might release them in April.

On Tuesday, he said he would release at least one year's returns in April.


S.C. picks winners
ELECTION 2012
South Carolina Republicans have picked their party's eventual nominee in every contested primary since the first one in 1980.
Percent of primary vote
1980 Ronald Reagan 55%
1988 George H. W. 49%
1992 George H. W. Bush 67%
1996 Bob Dole 45%
2000 George W. Bush 53%
2008 John McCain 33%
The two S.C. primary winners with the lowest percentages, didn't make it to the White House
Breaking down the S.C. GOP
S.C. Republicans fall into overlapping groups partially split along economic, ideological, religious and other demographic lines
70% Regular churchgoers
60% Self-described evangelicals
33% Tea partiers/ supporters
22% Business owners/executives
14% Retirees
13% Military veterans
Source: Almanac of American Politics, U.S. Census Bureau, Clemson University, Gallup Poll Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2012 MCT

Republicans trying to defeat him in Saturday's South Carolina primary are hoping he'll make them public far sooner.

The White House, which expects Romney to win the Republican nomination and take on President Barack Obama this year, reacted, too.

Spokesman Jay Carney said: "This only illuminates what (Obama) believes is an issue, which is that everybody who's working hard ought to pay their fair share. That includes millionaires who might be paying an effective tax rate of 15 percent when folks making $50,000 or $75,000 or $100,000 a year are paying much more."

Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker who runs second in some polls in South Carolina, taunted the former Massachusetts governor: "I think we ought to rename our flat tax. We have a 15 percent flat tax, so this would be a Mitt Romney flat tax and all Americans would pay the rate" that he paid. Gingrich is expected to release his own returns on Thursday.

At 15 percent, Romney's federal income tax rate would still be higher than the rate paid by many Americans.

On average, households making between $50,000 and $75,000 will pay a federal income tax rate of 5.7 percent this year, according to projections by the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank.

However, when Social Security and other taxes are included, that same household would pay an average federal tax rate of 16.6 percent.

Overall, the average American household will pay 9.3 percent in federal income taxes- and 19.7 percent in all federal taxes.

Romney's wealth—he is worth between $190 million and $250 million- puts him among the richest Americans. But if most of his income is from investments, it could help him to significantly lower his federal tax bill compared to people who make money in other ways.

Santorum fights back against critics with barbs

AIKEN, S.C. (AP)—Rick Santorum on Tuesday branded Mitt Romney a liberal, said Newt Gingrich's policy positions have been "all over the place" and laughed that Ron Paul has been running for president "since 1938," looking to capture the GOP presidential nomination even if takes harsh words for fellow Republicans.

Santorum, a long-time footnote in the GOP contest now attracting scrutiny, tried to punch his way to the top of the pack with scathing critiques of his rivals ahead of Saturday's South Carolina primary. In campaign speeches and a new TV ad, the former senator from Pennsylvania sharpened his criticism and urged conservatives to coalesce around one of their own or face Romney as the GOP's nominee.

"He's got a lot of money, but he doesn't have the convictions, the authenticity nor the record that is necessary to win this election," Santorum told voters about Romney. "Please consolidate."

At the same time, he sought to cast Gingrich, the former House speaker, as an insufficiently conservative option.

"Speaker Gingrich is not nearly as conservative as I am on most issues," Santorum said.

"Newt is bold, but he is all over the place," he continued. "Attacking capitalism, supporting capitalism. Against global warming, for global warming. We need someone who is bold and consistent."

Santorum, a sometimes acerbic and often sarcastic campaigner, has done little to hide his animosity toward his rivals since he came within eight votes of winning Iowa's caucuses earlier this month. He even took a shot at the 76-year-old Paul, who bested him New Hampshire and has needled him from afar.

"Congressman Paul had been running in New Hampshire for president since 1938," he said.

Conservatives, it seemed, were recognizing their dilemma: Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Gingrich and Santorum all were vying to emerge the leading alternative to Romney. Thus far, however, they have fractured their support and Romney has won both Iowa's and New Hampshire's lead-off contests.

"We conservatives are splitting the vote," Aiken voter Michele Merritt told Santorum. "Is there not anything that those conservatives can do to get together for the good of the country and try to coalesce behind one person that will be able to take on Romney and win? Because I really, really don't want Romney to get the nomination."

Santorum nodded but stopped short of urging anyone to exit from the race.

"I believe everybody has a right to be in this race if they want to be in this race and fight as hard as they want for as long as they want," he later told reporters in Lexington. "I'm not into political games, or political deals."

Santorum finished a close second in Iowa on a shoestring budget. Fundraising took off after that and Santorum was finally in a position to spend some of the $3 million he raised that week.

In an ad scheduled to start airing Wednesday in South Carolina, Santorum likened Romney to President Barack Obama.

Mount Rainier snowshoer burned money for warmth

TACOMA, Washington (AP)—A snowshoer who was lost in a blizzard for two days on Washington state's Mount Rainier said he stayed alive by digging out a snow tunnel and burning dollar bills for warmth.

Yong Chun Kim, 66, of Tacoma, said he carried a lighter and other emergency supplies and burned personal items: extra socks, Band-Aids, toothbrush, packaging, and lastly $1 and $5 bills from his wallet.

Kim, who served in the South Korean military in the Vietnam War, told KOMO-TV in Seattle that skills he learned as a soldier helped him survive. He said he wasn't scared. He kept waiting for the sounds of the helicopter—though severe weather conditions prevented park officials from using one to search for Kim.

"I'm a lucky man, a really lucky man," he said in an interview Tuesday afternoon from his home.

With temperatures in the teens and winds whipping on the mountain, Kim said he kept walking and moving to stay warm. He took cover in several tree wells—depressions in snow that forms around a tree—and slept standing for 5 to 10 minutes at a time.

He initially made a shelter near a big rock and tried to stay warm. He tried to keep walking, but at times "the snow was so deep, I couldn't breathe."

Kim dreamed of his wife and a nice hot sauna. He talked to himself. He took pictures. He prayed to God. He worried his family and friends would worry about him. He made a fire, drank hot water and ate rice, some Korean food and a chocolate bar.

And even as he burned his personal items to say warm, the last $6 going up in flames Sunday night, he said: "I worried because it's a national park. You're not supposed to have a fire. ... I'm worried about that but I want to (stay) alive."

Money made for the best fire, he said, laughing. Nylon socks and packaging, not so great.

"He could have died," said Kim's stepson, Malcolm An. "He was walking around, struggling to find a place, literally not knowing where to go."

AP

In this undated photo provided by Mount Rainier National Park, Yong Chun Kim, 66, of Tacoma, is shown.

ACROSS THE NATION

Snow-laden Alaska towns dig out from huge pile-up

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Students are back in class. Vulnerable roofs are shoveled for the most part. Snow removal crews are getting a breather as skies stay clear over this corner of Alaska. Life is back to normal for two towns deeply buried in snow in Prince William Sound. The National Weather Service said Tuesday the weather is supposed to remain clear in both Valdez and Cordova this week, with no more snow forecast in Cordova until next week. "I'm seeing people smile and they don't seem so panicked," said Cordova city spokesman Allen Marquette. He said the priority—at least for him—is to move snow at the base of homes in time to make room for the next snowfall.

Texas school bus crash sends 32 to hospital

TEMPLE, Texas (AP)—A tractor-trailer clipped a school bus full of students Tuesday, flipping the bus onto its side and sending 32 people—29 of them children—to a central Texas hospital. Police said a 9-year-old boy was ejected through the escape hatch in the bus roof, and the bus driver was knocked unconscious. The accident occurred about 7:30 a.m. on Farm-to-Market Road 93 on the southeastern outskirts of Temple, about 60 miles northeast of Austin. Trooper Harpin Myers of the Texas Department of Public Safety said a hardware truck apparently ran a stop sign when it hit the Academy school district bus. Conditions were foggy, but it was unclear whether that factored into the crash, Myers said. Three of the 29 children being treated were admitted to the hospital, one in critical condition, while the other 26 were discharged, said Katherine Voss, a spokeswoman for the Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple.

Asia

US senators see no clash with China in Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S.-China confrontation in Asia is unlikely but Washington is committed to help bolster the military firepower of its allies like the Philippines amid territorial disputes with Beijing, two U.S. senators said Tuesday.

The Philippines has turned to Washington for warships, fighter jets and radar to bolster its anemic military after accusing Chinese ships last year of repeatedly intruding into areas it claims in the South China Sea's disputed Spratly Islands and disrupting oil exploration in its territorial waters.

Vietnam has leveled similar accusations against China, which dismissed the allegations and reiterated its sovereignty in virtually the entire region. The potentially oil- and gas-rich sea territory has long been feared as Asia's potential flashpoint for conflict.

Sen. John McCain, however, said he did not expect any major conflict erupting between the United States and China but reiterated Washington's commitment to maintain its presence in Asia and bolster the military firepower of its allies to counterbalance China's dominance.

"We do not foresee a conflict or confrontation with China," McCain said in a news conference in Manila, where he and three other U.S. senators held talks with Philippine officials on bolstering defense and trade ties.

But he added the best way to guarantee Asia's stability was for Washington to build a strong military presence in the region as well as robust alliances with its allies.

With the U.S. drawing down its military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, McCain said America will intensify its deployment of air and naval assets to Asia, increase joint military exercises with allies and bolster trade.

Responding to a question, McCain said the U.S. has no plans to try to re-establish its military bases in the Philippines, which adopted a constitution in 1987 that forbids the permanent basing of foreign troops. He was flown to the U.S. Clark Air Base north of Manila in the early 1970s after years as a prisoner of war in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Clark and other U.S. military facilities were shut down in the early 1990s.

"I don't believe that those days will ever return," McCain said, adding new collaboration by the allies "can mean joint military operations" or provision of American ships and military equipment like a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, which the Philippines recently obtained and became the largest and most modern warship in its dilapidated naval fleet.

Despite its economic difficulties, the U.S. can build a strong presence through robust defense cooperation with its Asian allies and maintain a formidable force in critical areas like the South China Sea, Sen. Joseph Lieberman said.

"We simply cannot allow one nation, in this case China, to exercise disproportionate control over these waterways," Lieberman said.

"We're not gonna let those claims to be settled by force or by bullying," he said. "We're going to make sure to the best of our ability that they're settled as a matter of negotiations, multilateral negotiations and international rule of law."

China wants bilateral negotiations to resolve the long-standing conflicts. It has warned non-claimants led by the United States from intervening.

The battle for ownership of the Spratlys has settled into an uneasy stand-off since the last fighting, involving China and Vietnam, that killed more than 70 Vietnamese sailors in 1988. The other claimants are Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

China's territorial disputes

China has many long-standing disputes with its neighbors. A look at some that involve economic as well as military issues:

1. Aksai Chin India says China occupies area it calls Ladakh

2. Arunachal Pradesh China says India occupies area it calls South Tibet

3. South China Sea China claims a huge area that conflicts with the territorial waters of Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei

4. Paracel Islands China wants to develop for tourism; also claimed by Vietnam; oil and gas fields nearby

5. Taiwan Independent of China since 1945; China claims it as a province; source of much China/U.S. tension

6. Diaoyu/Senkaku Japan controls these tiny islands but China says it should; near

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Source: U.S. Department of Defense, The Economist
Graphic: Judy Treible

Indonesia tries to deter train 'surfers'—again

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains—hosing down the scofflaws with red paint, threatening them with dogs and appealing for help from religious leaders.

Now the authorities have an intimidating and possibly even deadly new tactic: Suspending rows of grapefruit-sized concrete balls to rake over the top of trains as they pull out of stations, or when they go through rail crossings.

Authorities hope the balls—which could deliver serious blows to the head—will be enough to deter defiant roof riders.

"We've tried just about everything, even putting rolls of barbed wire on the roof, but nothing seems to work," said Mateta Rizahulhaq, a spokesman for the state-owned railway company PT Kereta Api. "Maybe this will do it."

Trains that crisscross Indonesia on poorly maintained tracks left behind by Dutch colonizers six decades ago usually are packed with passengers, especially during the rush hour.

Hundreds seeking to escape the overcrowded carriages clamor to the top. Some ride high to avoid paying for a ticket. Others do so because—despite the dangers, with dozens killed or injured every year—"rail surfing" is fun.

The first dozen or so balls were installed Tuesday hundreds of yards (meters) from the entrance of a train station just outside the capital, Jakarta. Painted silver, the balls hung by chains from what looked like the frame of a giant soccer goal.

But there was a glitch: the chains were too short, leaving a gap of about 16 inches (40 cm) between the balls and the roofs of the passing train carriages. Rizahulhaq said adjustments would be made.

If successful, the project will be expanded, with balls also set up near railway crossings.

Asked about worries that the balls could hurt or even kill those who defy the roof-riding ban, he insisted that wasn't really his problem.

"They don't have to sit on top," he said. "And we've already told them, if the train is full, go to the office. We will be happy to reimburse their tickets."

The commuters, known as "Atappers" or "Roofers," meanwhile are hardcore in their determination to stay on top.

"I was really scared when I first heard about these balls," said Mulyanto, a 27-year-old shopkeeper, who rides between his hometown of Bogor and Jakarta almost every day for work. "It sounds like it could be really dangerous."

"But I don't think it'll last long," he said. "They've tried everything to keep us from riding ... in the end we always win."

Top official dismisses concerns about Kim Jong Un

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—A senior North Korean party official dismissed concerns about Kim Jong Un's readiness to lead, saying he spent years working closely with his late father and helped him make key policy decisions on economic and military affairs.

In the first interview with foreign journalists by a high-level North Korean official since Kim Jong Il's Dec. 17 death, Politburo member and Kim family confidante Yang Hyong Sop told The Associated Press that North Koreans were in good hands with their young new leader. He emphasized an unbroken continuity from father to son that suggests a continuation of Kim Jong Il's key policies.

"We suffered the greatest loss in the history of our nation as a result of the sudden, unexpected and tragic loss of the great leader Kim Jong Il," he said in the interview Monday at Mansudae Assembly Hall, seat of the North Korean legislative body.

"But still, we are not worried a bit," he added, "because we know that we are being led by comrade Kim Jong Un, who is fully prepared to carry on the heritage created by the great Gen. Kim Jong Il."

Daily life in this cold, somber capital has begun to return to normal one month after Kim's death, reportedly from a heart attack while riding on his private train.

The white mourning bouquets and massive portraits of the departed leader have been cleared from Pyongyang's main buildings and monuments. People are busy getting back to daily life, with children whizzing down icy slopes on wooden sleds and workers running to catch morning buses and trams as the Kim Jong Un ode "Footsteps" blares over loudspeakers.

Vast Kim Il Sung Square, where a sea of mourners converged after Kim's death, was ghostly quiet except for a few people who scurried quickly across the frigid plaza.

AP

In this Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 file photo, Yang Hyong Sop, vice president of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, meets with a delegation from The Associated Press at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang, North Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar's Suu Kyi registers for parliament seat

THANLYIN, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has registered her candidacy for an April by-election, as her opposition party comes full circle after being politically ostracized for two decades. Suu Kyi registered Wednesday to run for a parliamentary seat in Kawhmu, a poor district south of Yangon where villagers' livelihoods were devastated by the 2008 Cyclone Nargis. Even if Suu Kyi's party wins all 48 seats to be contested April 1, it will have minimal power.

Maldives military arrests top judge, spark protest

MALE, Maldives (AP)—The Maldives' military has arrested the chief justice of the country's criminal court after he released an opposition leader who had been detained without a warrant for allegedly defaming the government. Monday's arrest of Judge Abdulla Mohamed has prompted all courts in Maldives to boycott sessions Tuesday, in what could become a showdown between the country's first government chosen in free elections and the independent judiciary introduced by former pro-democracy political prisoner President Mohamed Nasheed after coming to power in 2008.

China says government to be more open

BEIJING (AP)—China says it will be more open about the often secretive workings of the government and ruling Communist Party. However, senior propaganda official Wang Chen said Wednesday that strict controls over the Internet would remain in place. Wang said China will open up more by expanding the use of government spokespeople, expanding the overseas reach of state media, and refining the use of microblogs to interact with the public. China polices the web rigorously to block pornographic or politically sensitive information, as well as blocking major social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

World

Coast Guard to Italian captain: Go back aboard!

ROME (AP)—"You go on board! Is that clear? Do you hear me?" the Coast Guard officer shouted as the captain of the grounded Costa Concordia sat safe in a life raft and frantic passengers struggled to escape after the ship rammed into a reef off the Tuscan coast.

"It is an order. Don't make any more excuses. You have declared 'Abandon ship.' Now I am in charge."

The dramatic recording made public Tuesday shows Capt. Francesco Schettino resisted orders to return to his ship to direct the evacuation, saying it was too dark and the ship was tipping perilously.

The exchange came to light as the death toll nearly doubled to 11 after divers pulled the bodies of four men and a woman, all wearing life vests, from the wreckage. Some two dozen people remain missing.

The Costa Concordia had more than 4,200 passengers and crew on board when it slammed into the reef Friday off the tiny island of Giglio after Schettino made an unauthorized maneuver from the ship's programmed course—apparently to show off the luxury liner to the island's residents.

Schettino has insisted that he stayed aboard until the ship was evacuated. However, the recording of his conversation with Italian Coast Guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco makes clear he fled before all passengers were off—and then defied De Falco's repeated orders to go back.

AP

Francesco Schettino, the captain of the Costa Concordia cruise ship that run aground off the tiny Island of Giglio last Friday, leaves the Grosseto court, Italy, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012.

"Listen Schettino," De Falco can be heard shouting in the audio tape. "There are people trapped on board. ... You go on board and then you will tell me how many people there are. Is that clear?"

But Schettino resisted, saying the ship was listing and he was with his second-in-command in the lifeboat.

"I am here with the rescue boats. I am here. I am not going anywhere. I am here," he said. "I am here to coordinate the rescue."

"What are you coordinating there? Go on board! Coordinate the rescue from aboard the ship. Are you refusing?" came the response.

Schettino said he was not refusing, but he still did not return to the ship, saying at one point: "Do you realize it is dark and here we can't see anything?"

De Falco shouted back: "And so what? You want to go home, Schettino? It is dark and you want to go home? Get on that prow of the boat using the pilot ladder and tell me what can be done, how many people there are and what their needs are. Now!"

The exchange also indicates that Schettino did not know anyone had died, with De Falco telling him at one point: "There are already bodies now, Schettino."

"How many bodies?" Schettino asks in a nervous tone.

"You are the one who has to tell me how many there are!" De Falco barks in response.

Schettino was finally heard on the tape agreeing to reboard. But the Coast Guard has said he never went back, and police arrested him on land several hours later.

The audio, first made available on the website of the Corriere della Sera newspaper and authenticated by the Coast Guard, was broadcast throughout the day on Italian television to a stunned nation.

Jailed since the accident, Schettino appeared Tuesday before a judge in Grosseto, where he was questioned for three hours. The judge ordered him held under house arrest, his lawyer, Bruno Leporatti, told reporters, and later Italian media said he had returned to his home near Naples.

Criminal charges including manslaughter and abandoning ship are expected to be filed by prosecutors in coming days. He faces 12 years in prison for the abandoning ship charge alone.

At the hearing, Leporatti said the captain gave his version of events, insisting that after the initial crash into the reefs he had maneuvered the ship close to shore in a way that "saved hundreds, if not thousands, of lives."

The lawyer said urine and hair samples were taken from Schettino, apparently to determine if he might have consumed alcohol or used drugs before the accident.

Tanned and looking younger than his 52 years, Schettino has worked for 11 years for the ship's Italian operator, Costa Crociere SpA, achieving the rank of captain in 2006. He hails from Meta di Sorrento in the Naples area, which produces many of Italy's ferry and cruise boat captains. He attended the Nino Bixio merchant marine school near Sorrento.

The five bodies discovered Tuesday were adults in their 50s or 60s, each wearing the orange vests that passengers use, indicating they were not crew members, said a Coast Guard spokesman, Cmdr. Filippo Marini. Their nationalities were not immediately released.

Mubarak trial encapsulates divisions in Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—Hosni Mubarak, on trial for his life, is ferried to court by helicopter from a presidential hospital suite. His sons and co-defendants swagger in wearing designer track suits and no handcuffs. His security chief is treated with near reverence by police in the courtroom.

For activists in Egypt, the scenes only deepen their feeling that the authoritarian system the ousted president oversaw remains largely in place, almost a year since the 18-day uprising that toppled him.

When Mubarak's trial began five months ago, many hoped it would bring not only punishment but a clear sense of victory for a movement that aimed to wipe the slate clean and start again.

Instead, it has boiled down to a bare-knuckled showdown between supporters and foes of the "revolution," reflecting the tensions that have been gripping the country.

Those divisions were clear in court Tuesday as Mubarak's defense began its arguments. His chief lawyer, Farid el-Deeb, went for maximum effect with flowery language depicting him as an unjustly maligned victim who tried to improve Egypt during 29 years in power.

"This man before you, who is 83, has been fatigued and burdened by ailments and mauled by the malice of cunning people," el-Deeb said.

"He is looking to your justice to save him from the oppression that surrounds him from every direction, after his reputation and history have been targeted by tongues and pens."

The courtroom erupted when he said that Mubarak in fact supported the revolution. El-Deeb quoted from a letter he said Mubarak wrote to his lifetime friend Ahmed Shafiq—who was prime minister at the time of the uprising—saying that protesters were exercising their right to stage peaceful protests but were infiltrated by criminals and Islamists who destroyed public property and challenged the regime's "legitimacy."

"Lies, lies!" and "Execution for Mubarak!" screamed the lawyers representing the families of protesters killed by police during the revolution.

They rushed at el-Deeb and nearly set upon him, but court police quickly moved to keep them back.

Mubarak, who has worn an unwaveringly grim expression ever since the trial began on Aug. 3, looked content as el-Deeb praised him. For the first time in the trial, he sat in a wheelchair in the courtroom cage where the defendants are kept, rather than lying on a hospital gurney as he has in previous sessions.

Mubarak, his former security chief Habib el-Adly and four top security officers are charged with complicity in the killing of hundreds of protesters and could face the death penalty if convicted. Mubarak's sons Alaa and Gamal, along with their father, are charged with corruption in the same trial, a crime that would carry a prison sentence.

But the near-melee over el-Deeb's speech gave a peek into the issue running under the surface of the trial: what the revolution has really meant for Egypt.

That issue has polarized Egyptian politics since Mubarak's Feb. 11 ouster and the takeover of the reins of power by army generals widely believed to be beholden to him, led by his loyal defense minister of 20 years, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi.

Many of the activists who engineered the anti-Mubarak protests see the generals as just an extension of their former patron's regime with no interest in bringing significant change. Notably, the military only ordered the arrest of the former president and his two sons after mass protests demanding that they be brought to justice.

Activists also charge that the generals have methodically tried to divert attention away from the revolution's main goals—freedom, democracy and social justice—and instead decreed a cumbersome transition, allowing Islamist parties to dominate the political landscape and missing what they see as a historic chance to become a truly democratic state.

At the same time, the generals have gone to great lengths to discredit protest leaders and capitalize on Egyptians' longing for stability by demonizing the revolutionaries as foreign agents and troublemakers while projecting an image of themselves as the nation's true patriots.

Activists, lawyers for the victims and some in the public see the soft treatment for the defendants as evidence that those in power still grant Mubarak and those around him the aura of prestige.

Police assigned to courthouse security have been captured on camera offering their former boss el-Adly a salute as he arrived for one of the early hearings. Those images caused an uproar, but el-Adly, who as interior minister commanded the intensely hated police force, continues to walk from the armored police vehicle that brings him from jail to the courtroom without escort or handcuffs. Dark sunglasses, a navy blue baseball cap and a matching prison uniform have become the iconic look of a man whose name once struck fear in the hearts of the regime's foes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Police: Nigeria bomb suspect arrested, escapes

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—The suspected mastermind of the Christmas Day bombing of a Catholic church in Nigeria escaped custody after being arrested in the country's capital, police acknowledged Tuesday—an embarrassment for a nation struggling to contain increasingly bloody sectarian attacks by a radical Islamist sect. Authorities said Kabiru Sokoto planned the bombing that killed 38 people at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla, just outside Nigeria's capital Abuja. But his arrest at the mansion of a state governor in Abuja, and subsequent escape, raised more questions about the government's ability to stop the radical sect, known as Boko Haram, which claimed responsibility for the church attack.

5 tourists killed in Ethiopia: report

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Five foreign tourists were killed by unknown armed rebels in Ethiopia's restive Afar region in the country's north, Ethiopian state television reported on Tuesday. The Ethiopian Television, or ETV, cited the Ethiopian Ministry of Defense reporting a group of eight unidentified foreign nationals were attacked near the Eritrean border on Monday. ETV said two tourists were injured severely and have been brought to a health clinic by defense forces. They are in critical condition, the state television said. Another tourist survived the attack unharmed.

Death toll in Haiti truck crash climbs to 29

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A truck's brakes failed and it crashed a small bus then careened onto the sidewalk of one Port-au-Prince's busiest streets, killing 29 people and injuring 67, a Haitian official said Tuesday. Nadia Lochard of Haiti's Civil Protection Office said the accident happened on Route Delmas in the capital when the driver lost control of his dump truck. The press office of President Michel Martelly issued a statement saying the leader went to the site of the crash, which was in front of the national television headquarters.

Focus

India reports new TB strain resistant to all drugs

By MARGIE MASON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Indian doctors have reported the country's first cases of "totally drug-resistant tuberculosis," a long-feared and virtually untreatable form of the killer lung disease.

It's not the first time highly resistant cases like this have been seen. Since 2003, patients have been documented in Italy and Iran. It has mostly been limited to impoverished areas, and has not spread widely. But experts believe there could be many undocumented cases.

No one expects the Indian TB strains to rapidly spread elsewhere. The airborne disease is mainly transmitted through close personal contact and isn't nearly as contagious as the flu. Indeed, most of the cases of this kind of TB were not from person-to-person infection but were mutations that occurred in poorly treated patients.

What's more, there's a debate within the public health community about whether to even label TB infections as totally drug resistant. The World Health Organization hasn't accepted the term and still considers the cases to be what's now called extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR. However, Dr. Paul Nunn, a coordinator at the WHO's Stop TB Department in Geneva, said there is ample proof that these virtually untreatable cases do exist.

The Indian hospital that saw the initial cases tested a dozen medicines and none of them worked, a pretty comprehensive assessment. A TB expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they do appear to be totally resistant to available drugs.

"It is concerning," said Dr. Kenneth Castro, director of the CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. "Anytime we see something like this, we better get on top of it before it becomes a more widespread problem."

Ordinary TB is easily cured by taking antibiotics for six to nine months. However, if that treatment is interrupted or the dose is cut down, the stubborn bacteria battle back and mutate into a tougher strain that can no longer be killed by standard drugs. The disease becomes harder and more expensive to treat.

In India, doctors in Mumbai have reported a total of 12 patients who failed initial treatment and also didn't respond to the medicines tried next over an average of two to three years. Three have died. None of the others have been successfully treated.

The doctors detailed the first four cases in a letter to a U.S. medical journal last month, blaming private doctors for prescribing inappropriate drug plans that sparked greater resistance in three of those four patients.

"These three patients had received erratic, unsupervised second-line drugs, added individually and often in incorrect doses, from multiple private practitioners," wrote the doctors from P.D. Hinduja National Hospital and Medical Research Center in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases.

One of the doctors, Zarir Udwadia, in a phone interview, said there is little hope for the surviving nine patients, all poor slum dwellers living in the community. He said he has detected one case of a mother passing the strain to a daughter living in close quarters. One of the patients was also infected with HIV, which typically results in faster death.

Udwadia criticized the testing and treatment methods of the Indian government's TB program, which he says forces patients to turn to private doctors, many of whom do not understand how to properly treat TB or the risks of increasing drug resistance by prescribing the wrong drugs.

"It was a given that this would happen," Udwadia said. "They have had no help from the Indian TB system. They are the untouchables, so no one is making a fuss. They don't have the power to vocalize. There's going to be more family contacts. It's going to spread for sure."

India's Health Ministry did not respond to phone calls and written requests for comment Monday and last week.

Dr. Nata Menabde, WHO's representative in India, said a team of national experts started investigating the cases Monday. She said the government is also working to improve laboratory diagnostics to help find more drug-resistant cases, and discussions are ongoing to identify ways to regulate TB treatment in the private sector.

"Now there is a high urgency attached to these findings even though the knowledge about the existence of such cases is not new," she said. "The political momentum is right because it has attracted the top level of attention, given the seriousness of the matter."

Similar highly resistant cases have been noted before. In 2003, two Italian women died and there were 15 cases reported from Iran in 2009. That same year, The Associated Press reported on a case of a Peruvian teenager who was infected at home but diagnosed while visiting Florida. He was successfully treated for a year and a half with experimental high doses of medicines not typically used for TB, costing about $500,000.

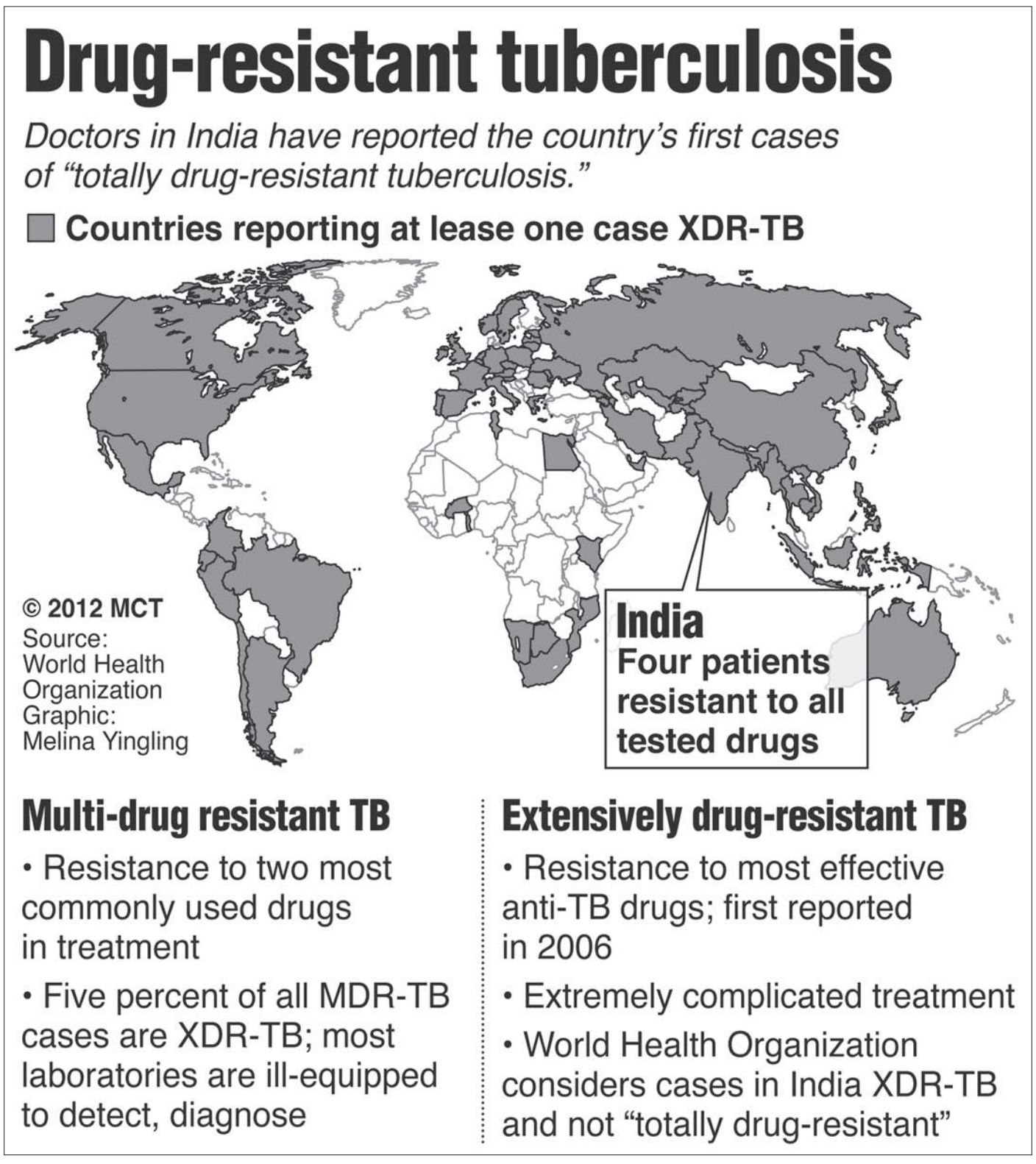
Those resources are unthinkable in the developing world, where TB remains a menacing killer and where few hospitals can perform tests to find out which antibiotics might work.

"For there to be another report coming out from India is no surprise at all. Indeed, in a sense, it's surprising it's taken so long," said WHO's Nunn. This is "yet another alarm call for countries and others engaged in TB control to do their jobs properly."

Tuberculosis is an age-old scourge that lies dormant in an estimated 1 in 3 people. About 10 percent of those people eventually develop active TB, which kills roughly 2 million a year, according to WHO. Each victim infects an average of 10 to 15 others every year, typically through sneezing or coughing.

If a TB case is found to be resistant to the two most powerful anti-TB drugs, the patient is classified as having multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR). An even worse classification of TB—one the WHO accepts—is extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR), a form of the disease that was first reported in 2006 and is virtually resistant to all drugs.

An estimated 20 percent of the world's multi-drug-resistant cases are found in India, which is home to a quarter of all types of tuberculosis cases worldwide.


Drug-resistant tuberculosis
Doctors in India have reported the country's first cases of "totally drug-resistant tuberculosis."
Countries reporting at lease one case XDR-TB
© 2012 MCT
Source: World Health Organization
Graphic: Melina Yingling
India
Four patients resistant to all tested drugs
Multi-drug resistant TB
• Resistance to two most commonly used drugs in treatment
• Five percent of all MDR-TB cases are XDR-TB; most laboratories are ill-equipped to detect, diagnose
Extensively drug-resistant TB
• Resistance to most effective anti-TB drugs; first reported in 2006
• Extremely complicated treatment
• World Health Organization considers cases in India XDR-TB and not "totally drug-resistant"

Environment

Compost is not hard to do: Mix plant-only kitchen scraps and a blender

By CINDY MCNATT
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

According to Treehugger.com—the go-to website for all things green in the world—the most popular environmental search on Google in 2011 was the phrase "How to Compost." Over a million people a month ask, "What is compost?" in their Google search bars.

That's where it gets tricky.

MCT

Green-gardening expert Carol Whitaker shares a few tips for your garden. One of the suggestions is to amend soil with composted manure.

What is compost? In nature it is millions of years of fallen leaves, dead animals, dead trees, and conditions that include insect infestation, avalanche, rock slides, floods and freezing and thawing.

All of these combined materials and environmental conditions over millennia make a rich soil that is alive with microorganisms, bugs, worms, critters of all sorts, plus decaying matter that the plants in the forest community depend on to live.

Soil is what provides plants a place to park and draw nutrients and moisture through their roots. Soil anchors a plant to the landscape so it doesn't fall over.

I suspect one of the reasons many people don't compost is that there is too much complicated information about how to do it.

Plant material decomposes without our help. Simple enough. You can let it happen organically on your own property—or rake your plant material and throw it in a pile. You can also make fancy compost bins and tumblers that make compost happen faster.

Anything that is plant-based can go into the pile. An equal amount of green to brown plant material speeds it up. The no-no is animal products that attract other animals to the pile and all the problems associated with mammals digging around in your yard at night.

The smaller the bits are, the faster they decompose. And that includes kitchen scraps—with kitchen composting a rising trend.

Here is the simplest way to provide organic matter to your soil. Gather your kitchen vegetable and fruit waste for a week in a large bowl in the refrigerator.

Every Saturday, say, pop it into the blender with a bit of water. Puree. Dig a hole in the backyard; pour your kitchen waste into the hole. Cover the hole with soil. Move on to another spot next week.

In a few months you will notice few things happening there. Earthworms will be everywhere. Bacteria will be turning your kitchen scraps into brown gold. Eventually, after weeks of this practice, parts of your garden will be very easy to dig. Plant will send their roots over to these nutrient-rich and easy to tunnel areas. Your dirt will start to turn into soil and the plants you purchase will actually want to live there.

In Celebration of her new Life

†Milagro Hocog Manglona

June 13, 1935 – January 16, 2012

In Her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: Lucio Masga Manglona
Sons: Luis Hocog Manglona, Raymond Hocog Manglona
Daughter and Son-In-Law: Sabina and Mateo M. Taisacan
Parents: Pedro S. and Escolastica Hocog
Parents-In-Law: Francisco and Dorothy M. Manglona
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: Domingo S. Quintanilla, Ignacio S. Hocog, Ana S. Hocog, Rosa H. and David Indalecio

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her
Children and Families:

Lydia and Eluterio Estacio (Lester Lee, Vallie De'Ana)
Francisco H. Manglona and Lucinda Barcinas (Kirido)
Yvonne and Ernest T. Eugenio (Lucio)
Tricia and Resty Alqueza (Daverish)
Nina H. Manglona (Jannie Jade)
Children of the late †**Sabina** M. and †Mateo M. Taisacan (Trina and Mario Biton, Tanya and Valdysagar Das, Terrence M. Taisacan/ Eva Barcinas, Tricille M. Taisacan, Tyree Lou M. Taisacan)

She will also be missed by her Sister-In-Law Dolores B. Hocog and Sonia who cared and gave her comfort during her last days, her GodChildren, nieces and nephews.

On Friday, January 20, 2012, viewing and last respects will be held at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel beginning at 5:00pm.
Holy Rosary will be prayed at 7:00pm followed by Responso Service at 7:45pm.
Chapel will be closed at 8:00pm.

Her remains will be taken to Rota, CNMI on Saturday, January 21, 2012. Upon arrival in Rota, she will be taken to her residence at Songsong Village for viewing and Last Respects.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at San Francisco de Borja Church at 2:00pm followed by Interment Service at San Jose Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Children and Families of the late
†Lucio Masga Manglona
and †Milagro Hocog Manglona

Energy-efficient upgrades under $50

BY TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Do you cringe when your utility bills arrive during these cold winter months? You can Do Your Part to save a lot of money when you make a few energy efficient upgrades. Don't worry; you won't have to shell out a lot of money to make a big difference. Here are my top upgrades for less than $50.

Lighten Up: Certain light bulbs can outlast traditional ones by 10 times and others can save you 75 percent in lighting costs. Some energy efficient options include CFLs, LEDs, and halogen bulbs. Be warned, not all will work efficiently in every fixture. Check out http://doyourpart.com/columns to see which bulb is best for every fixture in your home.

Water Heater Blanket: This is one of the most inexpensive ways to make your conventional hot water heater run more efficiently. A hot water heater blanket will cost you around $20. It is super easy to put on and it helps keep the water inside the tank warm, which means the water heater won't have to work as hard.

Power Strip Savings: Wasted power is becoming a big problem. Anything with a remote, continuous display or a charging cord all sip power even when they are not in use. That can add up to a 10-percent increase in your power bill for electricity you're not even using. Some of our electronics need power to remember programmed settings (DVR, alarm clock, etc.). All of the others should be plugged into a power strip with an on/off switch. This is the only way to truly cut the power to the others that don't need continuous power.

Go Old School: Clothes dryers are one of the biggest energy hogs in any home. And don't be fooled by ones that claim to be energy efficient. Dryers can't even be Energy Star-certified because they all use about the same amount of energy. To slash your utility bills, line-dry your clothes. Even if you don't have the room outside for a clothesline, there are plenty of new indoor drying rack options that will hold a complete load of clothes.

These small investments will bring big returns when it comes to your utility bills. Do Your Part and take a few minutes to make your house run more efficiently and economically.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, author, and founder of DoYourPart, everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com and follow DoYourPart on Facebook and Twitter.

Life & Style

Chef Paula Deen hid diabetes, pushed high-fat food

NEW YORK (AP)—Paula Deen, the Southern belle of butter and heavy cream, is making no apologies for waiting three years to disclose she has diabetes while continuing to dish up deep-fried cheesecake and other high-calorie, high-fat recipes on TV.

She said she isn't changing the comfort cooking that made her a star, though it isn't clear how much of it she'll continue to eat while she promotes health-conscious recipes along with a diabetes drug she's endorsing for a Danish company.

"I've always said, 'Practice moderation, y'all.' I'll probably say that a little louder now," Deen said Tuesday after revealing her diagnosis on NBC's "Today" show. "You can have diabetes and have a piece of cake. You cannot have diabetes and eat a whole cake."

Health activists and one fellow chef called her a hypocrite for promoting an unhealthy diet along with a drug to treat its likely effects. Deen added her support of the Novo Nordisk company to a collection of lucrative endorsements that include Smithfield ham and Philadelphia Cream Cheese.

Deen, who will turn 65 on Thursday, said she kept her diagnosis private as she and her family figured out what to do, presumably about her health and a career built solidly on Southern cooking. Among her recipes: deep-fried cheesecake covered in chocolate and powdered sugar, and a quiche that calls for a pound of bacon.

"I really sat on this information for a few years because I said, 'Oh, my gosh, what am I going to do about this? Is my life fixing to change? Am I no longer going to like my life?" she asked. "I had to have time to adjust and soak it all in and get up all the information that I could."

While Deen, who lives in Savannah, Ga., has cut out the sweet tea she routinely drank straight through to bedtime and taken up treadmill walking, she plans few changes on the air.

Government doctors say that being overweight (as Deen is), over 45 (as Deen is) and inactive (as Deen was) increase the risk for developing Type 2 diabetes. Growth of the disease in the U.S. has been closely tied to escalating obesity rates. Roughly 23 million Americans are believed to have the most common Type 2 diabetes; patients' bodies either do not produce enough insulin or do not use it efficiently, allowing excess sugar, or glucose, to accumulate in the blood.

This undated file photo courtesy of Food Network shows celebrity chef Paula Deen. AP

Deen is the pitch person for Novo Nordisk's new online program, Diabetes in a New Light, which offers tips on food preparation, stress management and working with doctors on treatment. She has contributed diabetes-friendly recipes to the website and takes the company's drug Victoza, a once-daily non-insulin injection that had global sales of $734 million in the first nine months of 2011.

A recipe for Lady and Sons Lasagna, on her diabetes-conscious site, uses extra-lean ground beef and cans of unsalted tomato sauce and diced tomatoes, for a dish estimated at 260 calories a serving. Turn to Deen's collection of recipes on The Food Network's site and find Grandmother Paul's fried chicken, with Crisco shortening for frying, or baked French Toast casserole, with two cups of half-and-half and a half-pound of butter. No calorie counts are estimated.

Jill Biden writes a children's book that's a tribute to troops

NEW YORK (AP)—Jill Biden, after years of teaching English to college and high school students, has written a book of her own.

The wife of Vice President Joe Biden has completed a children's story, "Don't Forget, Nana, God Bless Our Troops," told from the point of view of granddaughter Natalie Biden and a tribute to soldiers and their families. Biden, called Nana by her granddaughter, has met with many military families and said she thought of doing the book as she realized how many people did not understand their experiences. The story is especially personal because son Beau Biden, Delaware's attorney general and a major in the state's Army National Guard, spent a year in Iraq.

"I really feel that you write your best about what you know best," Jill Biden, who taught in Delaware before moving to Washington, said Tuesday during a brief telephone interview with The Associated Press. "That's what I teach to my students, so I thought using my own experience would have a little more meaning and a little more heart to it."

The book will be published June 5 by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers and will be illustrated by Raul Colon, who has worked on stories by Frank McCourt and Libba Moore Gray. According to Simon & Schuster, "Readers will follow Natalie's experience as she learns to cope with missing her father and finds comfort in the kindness of members of her community, including teachers and neighbors and the strength and pride that she and her mother and brother felt from being part of a military family. The book will also include resources about what readers can do to support military service members and their families serving at home and abroad."

Biden said she came up with the title after putting Natalie to bed one night. They read some stories and said their prayers, and Biden got up to say goodnight. As she was leaving, Natalie said, "Don't forget, Nana, God bless our troops."

"It just shows how ingrained it is in them, that it is part of our family life," Biden said.

Biden is receiving no advance. She and the publisher said all net author proceeds are being donated to charities, to be determined, for military families.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Urbano Crisostimo Babauta, Sr.

May 04, 1936 – January 14, 2012

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his
Wife: Dolores Duenas Babauta
Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren:
Teresita B. and John Bungcayao (Brenda, Brandon)
†Juan D. and Maribeth F. Babauta (Lestor John/ Mirelle – Skyler, Lirelle), (Kristal Ann, Janee Marie)
Ana M. and Greg Dawes
Jesus D. and Frances C. Babauta (Therese Ann, Tanya Lynn, Brandon Jay, Christopher Jerome, Tiara Jaime, Alexander Jude)
Maria B. and Oscar M. Masga (Desiree Ann – Kody Jack), (Andrew Steven/Clarissa–Anissa Faith), (Doreen Marie), (Oscar Jr. / Dianalynn – Travis Mark), (Darcy Christine)
Urbano D. Jr. and Lavena C. Babauta (Ashley Caitlyn, Alyssa Carolyn)
Concepcion B. and Edward Basa Sr. (Natasha Rachel, Edlyne Nicole, Edward Jr., Dolores Soledad)

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: Juan Aguon and Concepcion Crisostimo Babauta
Mother-In-Law: Maria Cruz Duenas
Sister: Victorina Babauta
Son: Juan Duenas Babauta

He is also survived by:
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Roke C. and †Adela DLC. Babauta, Joaquin C. and Remedio C. Babauta, Maria B. and Vicente Songsong, Luis C. Babauta, †Magdalena Noor, Ines Duenas, George and †Margarita Duenas, Bernadita C. and Jesus Taitano, Alexandro C. and Carmen Castro, Agusta Cruz, Fernando C. Ada, Barbara Cruz

He will also be missed be numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church and at San Vicente Church at 6:00pm.

His remains will be arriving from Guam tomorrow, Thursday, January 19,2012 at 10:30am and will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel. Nightly Rosary will be recited at Kristo Rai Church at 7:30pm beginning on Thursday, January 19, 2012.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be at 7:45am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Services will be at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Dolores "Ling" Duenas Babauta
Children and Family

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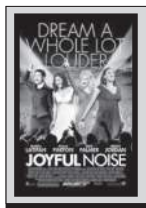
Contraband

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale
Action • Rated R

Synopsis

A former smuggler from New Orleans faces ruthless drug lords, vicious criminals, corrupt officials, and trigger-happy hit men after getting back into the business to help his brother-in-law settle a deadly debt. When it came to transporting illicit goods under treacherous circumstances, Chris Farraday (Mark Wahlberg) used to be the best in the business. But all of that changed when he chose to give up his life of crime to start a family with Kate (Kate Beckinsale). Chris learns that leaving his past behind is easier said than done, however, after Kate's brother Andy (Caleb Landry Jones) goes to work for ferocious drug lord Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi), and drops the ball on a major deal.



Joyful Noise

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

This light, gentle comedy from director Todd Graff stars Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah in the tale of a small-town choir determined to win a national choral competition. As the choir leaders, G.G. Sparrow and Vi Rose Hill (Parton and Latifah) band together and set out to win at any cost, supported by their eager young participants (Jeremy Jordan, Keke Palmer and others).

War Horse

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson
Drama, War • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Steven Spielberg's epic World War I drama details the remarkable bond between a man named Albert (Jeremy Irvine) and his loyal horse, Joey. Adapted from the novel by Michael Morpurgo, War Horse follows the growing friendship between man and beast as Albert trains Joey, and then follows Joey on an incredible journey across the English countryside after the pair are forcibly separated.

★ ★ ★

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

The Darkest Hour

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

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'Artist,' 'Tinker Tailor' up for UK film awards

LONDON (AP)—It's spry versus spy as frothy silent movie "The Artist" and moody thriller "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" lead the race for the British Academy Film Awards, Britain's equivalent of the Oscars.

"The Artist" received 12 nominations and "Tinker Tailor" 11, with each film up for best picture and director, and best actor nominations for leading men Jean Dujardin and Gary Oldman.

The other best-film nominees, announced at a ceremony Tuesday by actors Daniel Radcliffe and Holliday Grainger, were "The Descendants," "Drive" and "The Help."

In a diverse field not dominated by any single film, there are also multiple nominations for "Hugo," "My Week With Marilyn," "The Iron Lady" and "The Help."

The nominations are another feather in the cap of "The Artist," a black-and-white French film about a silent screen star's fall with the rise of talkies that has become an unlikely hit. On Sunday it won three Golden Globes, including best musical or comedy film.

Director Michael Hazanavicius said Tuesday he and his crew had been "a bit mad to make a black-and-white silent film in 2011."

"We certainly hoped to find an audience, but the support we have received from so many people in so many different countries was unexpected, overwhelming and quite wonderful," he said.

The shortlist gives a boost to "Tinker Tailor," an atmospheric adaptation of John le Carre's espionage classic that has received rave reviews but has so far been snubbed during the U.S. awards season.

AP

British actors Daniel Radcliffe and Holliday Grainger hold a Bafta Award after they announced the British Academy Film Award nominations in Piccadilly, London, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012.

"Tinker Tailor" producer Tim Bevan said the film was a "particularly British cultural phenomenon. It's great that it's being recognized at the BAFTAs but that it hasn't at the Golden Globes is not surprising."

"'The Artist' seems to be the film with the momentum, and rightly so," he said. "It's been an OK year but not a brilliant year for movies, and 'The Artist' defines what cinema should be. It's brave, different, it's got a great shot."

The best actor contest pits Oldman and Dujardin against Brad Pitt for "Moneyball," George Clooney for "The Descendants" and Michael Fassbender for "Shame."

The best actress category includes two performers playing real-life icons—Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe in "My Week With Marilyn" and Meryl Streep as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

Streep, who has been widely praised for her performance, said the nomination was "thrilling news ... Not just for me, but for the film of which I am very proud, and for the hundreds of people who worked on it! Thanks, from a (New) Jersey girl."

Alba keeps it 'Honest' with eco-friendly products

NEW YORK (AP)—Jessica Alba has another new baby. She's launched an e-commerce company at Honest.com (named after her 3-year-old daughter Honor) to sell eco-friendly and toxic-free baby products and household items for a monthly subscription.

Alba, who welcomed her second daughter Haven in 2011, said Tuesday the idea was born after she learned that toxic chemicals are widely used in everyday products.

"I would buy what I thought was like an eco-brand and pay out the wazoo for it and then find out that it's made with the same ingredients as any other brand, but the packaging is a little more biodegradable and you're like 'But I care about the product touching my kid. Is that OK?'"

AP

Actress Jessica Alba poses for a portrait Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012, in New York to promote Honest.com, a new e-commerce eco friendly and non-toxic baby product company.

She decided the best solution was to make available the kinds of products she would buy. To launch the business, she partnered with author and environmentalist Christopher Gavigan, ShoeDazzle founder Brian Lee and PriceGrabber.com executive Sean Kane.

The 30-year-old actress said the venture is "hands down" more nerve-racking than the opening of a new movie but also more gratifying.

"I came up with the idea. I had to pitch it to my partners and they came on board and together we created the company from scratch," she said. "From the packaging to the bottles to the product that's inside, the way that the interfacing is with the website, all of that is really from me ... it's taken three years to get here."

To make a purchase, consumers sign up on Honest.com and choose from subscription packages for products including diapers, shampoo and laundry detergent. The products are then delivered monthly to the buyer's door.

Los Angeles council requires condoms in porn films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actors in adult movies filmed in the nation's Porn Capital would be required to use condoms under an ordinance granted final approval Tuesday by the Los Angeles City Council.

The measure, adopted 9-1, next goes to the mayor for his signature. Before it can take effect, however, the City Council has ordered police officials, the city attorney and others to hold meetings to figure out how it might be enforced.

The council's second and final vote to approve the law was taken without public discussion on a day when most of the porn industry's major players were in Las Vegas preparing for Wednesday's opening of the Adult Entertainment Expo, their industry's largest trade event.

Several industry officials condemned the move as being an unneeded exercise in political correctness that cannot be enforced.

"The only thing that the city could potentially achieve is losing some film permit money and driving some productions away, but you can't actually compel an industry to create a product that the market doesn't want," said Christian Mann, general manager of Evil Angel Productions, one of the industry's biggest makers of porn films.

Like others in the business, he said large numbers of consumers, especially overseas, consistently refuse to buy films in which condoms are used.

Veteran porn actress Tabitha Stevens said she has worked with and without condoms during her 17-year career. Although Stevens, who also produces films, said she prefers to work with condoms, she doesn't believe their use should be mandated by a government authority.

"If you want to wear them, wear them. If you don't, don't. That's up to the talent to decide. It shouldn't be up to the government to decide," she said by phone from Las Vegas.

Stevens and others also said the industry's self-imposed testing standard, in which major companies require that actors be tested every 30 days for sexually transmitted diseases, is working well. They say there has not been a confirmed case of HIV related directly to the porn industry since 2004.

Advocates of the new law said the testing isn't sufficient and the condom requirement adds another level of safety.

"We are not opposed to testing, but testing is not prevention in the same way that a barrier protection is," said Ged Kenslea, spokesman for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which supports the condom requirement.

He also accused the adult film industry of not being forthcoming in reporting all cases of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia and others.

Kenslea scoffed at the idea that the industry, about 90 percent of which is believed to be based in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, will pack up and move because of the restriction.

"The industry is not going to go away," he said, adding that other parts of the country aren't as tolerant of hard-core-sex films and that the industry's infrastructure, from writers, directors and actors to production facilities, is already based here.

Toddler's cuss word on 'Modern Family' draws ire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An anti-profanity crusader is asking ABC to pull this week's "Modern Family" episode about a cursing toddler.

A college student who founded the No Cussing Club in 2007 said Tuesday that he's called on club members to contact ABC and ask that the episode be dropped.

McKay Hatch says that he wants the network to at least realize people are uncomfortable with the idea of a toddler using profanity. He says ABC should set a better example.

In the episode titled "Little Bo Bleep," the tot playing Lily says the word "fudge" during taping as a substitute for the F-word. It's to be bleeped when the show airs at 9 p.m. EST on Wednesday.

AP

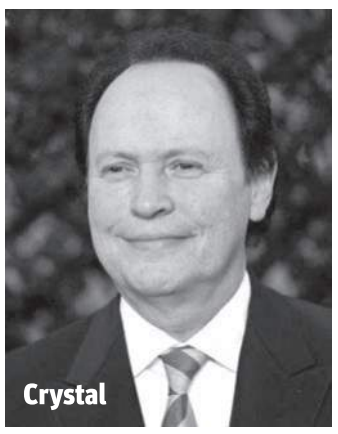
In this image released by ABC, from right, Jesse Tyler Ferguson portraying Mitchell Pritchett, and Eric Stonestreet portraying Cameron Tucker are shown with Aubrey Anderson-Emmons, who plays their adopted daughter Lily in a scene from "Modern Family," airing Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012 at 9 p.m. EST on ABC.

Billy Crystal hints at Oscar theme in online video

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Academy Awards is the best awards show on TV—at least according to Billy Crystal.

The veteran Oscar host calls it "the granddaddy of all the shows" and says in a new video that he appreciates being "trusted with this show again."

Crystal says he and Oscar producers are approaching the show "as fans of the movies and movie theaters and our first experiences in them."



Crystal

Wearing a tuxedo and dancing among oversized Oscar statues, the 63-year-old comedian acknowledges that "there's so much expected" of his return and hints that he'll take his traditional approach to opening the show by inserting himself into the year's films.

The video is among special content the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is offering through its official show website, Oscar.com.

Rock Hall of Fame opens archives to public

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened its new library and archives to the public on Tuesday to give scholars and fans access to the stories behind the music through such "artifacts" as personal letters from Madonna and Aretha Franklin and 1981-82 video of the Rolling Stones tour.

The collection, catalogued over the last few years, includes more than 3,500 books, 1,400 audio recordings and 270 videos, and is housed in the new four-story, $12 million building.

Thousands more books and recordings and hundreds of videos will be added as previously stored items and new donations are catalogued, said Andy Leach, director of the library and archives.

"We hope to serve music scholars, teachers, students and the general public," Leach said. "We hope to see all of them here."

Tuesday's opening of the building on the Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, not far from the Rock Hall, occurred without a lot of fanfare. The low-key opening allows the public to enjoy the library before a grand opening April 9. The college funded the building and the Rock Hall financed construction and furnishings of its interior.

The library also offers photos, albums and covers, oral histories and scrap books.

Leach said the Rock Hall has done a great job of telling the story of rock `n' roll. He said he sees the library as bringing the museum more recognition and showing "it to be a serious place of research."

The library collection also includes movie posters, photos and memorabilia related to Alan Freed, the DJ credited with coining the phrase rock `n' roll; a handwritten list by Elvis Presley of songs included in one of his concerts; and personal letters from Mick Jagger.

Prince Philip resumes royal engagements

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II's husband has returned to official duties following a heart procedure that saw him spend Christmas in hospital.

Prince Philip attended a fundraising dinner at Cambridge University Tuesday to support its Scott Polar Research Institute—his first official engagement since the procedure.

Philip was admitted to Papworth Hospital with chest pains just before the holidays and underwent a successful coronary stent procedure.

After spending four nights at Papworth recovering from the procedure, the 90-year-old was soon back on his feet, joining the rest of the royal family at their traditional New Year's Day church service just days after his release.

The health scare was the most serious suffered by Philip, who is known to be active and robust but had expressed a desire to scale down his royal engagements upon his 90th birthday.

Tuesday's dinner was held 100 years to the day since English explorer Robert F. Scott and his expedition reached the South Pole

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

NC 'Teen Mom 2' star arrested twice in 6 days

BOLIVIA, N.C. (AP)—A star of the MTV reality show "Teen Mom 2" has been arrested for the second time in less than a week in southeastern North Carolina. Jenelle Evans was charged Monday night with violating a domestic violence protection order. Evans was still being held in the Brunswick County jail Tuesday morning, but officials at the jail didn't have more details on the arrest. A call to her lawyer was not immediately returned. The 20-year-old was arrested last week and charged with making harassing phone calls and communicating threats. Evans was also charged with assault in March. A month later, she received 12 months of probation and community service on a drug paraphernalia charge. In August, she was charged with a probation violation after testing positive for marijuana and opiates.

Tony Award organizers reveal date of show

NEW YORK (AP)—Theater buffs, mark your calendars. This year's Tony Awards will be held June 10. The American Theatre Wing announced Tuesday both the award-show date and the cutoff for eligibility to receive one of the awards. Productions must open before April 25 to be in the running. The awards, presented by The Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing, will be handed out June 10 starting at 8 p.m. Eastern. The telecast will broadcast live on CBS from New York's Beacon Theatre. Last year's show was its first at the Beacon, a much smaller venue than the Tony Awards' previous home at Radio City Music Hall. There was no announcement on who will be the show's host. Last year, it was Neil Patrick Harris.

Soundtrack to be released for MTV's 'Teen Mom'

NEW YORK (AP)—The TV shows "Teen Mom" and "Teen Mom 2" are getting a soundtrack—and no, it won't consist of lullabies. Instead, the soundtrack "Teen Mom" features the songs from emerging acts featured on the hit MTV shows. Proceeds from now until July 17 will benefit The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. It's being released Tuesday on iTunes. Joe Cuello, senior vice president of creative music integration at MTV, says this is the first time MTV has used a series soundtrack to "promote and support a cause." The hit shows document the plight of several young women as they deal with the hardships of young motherhood and more.

Woman who needs a hug is urged to reach out to others

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: May I respond to "Iowa Reader" (Nov. 10), the older woman who asked you where to turn when she needed to be hugged and listened to? I'm guessing she was married a long time and doesn't have any real friends—just people from her married days.

I suggest she get a dog. While dogs can't hug or hold, they do love unconditionally. A dog is always happy to be with you, and will listen even though it can't talk back. I would have died of loneliness had it not been for mine. Through her, I have met other older single people on walks and at the dog park. She has given me a way to make new friends and find some company.

MARCY IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR MARCY: Thanks for your suggestion. I promised "Iowa Reader" that if other readers shared ideas I would pass them along. Because of you and other compassionate readers, I received a wide range of heartfelt, helpful advice. My newspaper readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: I discovered a wonderful way to receive much-needed human contact—partner dancing. I started with the Argentine tango, which might be a bit too much for some folks, but I have learned to absolutely love it. It's a safe way to enjoy an intimate connection with a member of the opposite sex, no strings attached.

It takes time to master the skills, but if you stick with it you'll find a community that shares a passion for a skill that's challenging and rewarding. Less-intimate forms of partner dance include swing, salsa and country dancing. If you love music and movement, and could use some exercise, I highly recommend it.

CATHERINE IN HAWAII

DEAR ABBY: I was faced with the same situation when my husband passed away. I joined a Sunday school and found what I needed. Often, the only hugs I get are from people in our group.

I volunteer in the kitchen and since I like taking pictures, I've been appointed the class photographer. Others have also utilized their hobbies to reach out to people. We go on outings, and I have made many "huggable" friends. I urge "Iowa Reader" to visit places of worship and find one that has an active senior adult ministry.

JO ANN IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I have been a licensed massage therapist for 20 years. I suggest "Iowa Reader" seek out one. During her hour on the massage table she will be touched, nurtured and encouraged to speak about anything on her mind. It's my job to not only make her feel safe and healthy physically, but emotionally as well.

For many clients, I am their only source of touch. It gives me great joy to know that in some small way I can make an important difference in their overall well-being.

HUGS FROM MAINE

DEAR ABBY: Volunteering to rock and cuddle low-birth-weight babies puts one in an environment where personal problems matter less. Brushing and petting dogs and cats at the SPCA can provide meaningful interaction because socialized animals are more likely to be adopted. There are poetry and writing groups, peer-to-peer counseling at her Area Agency on Aging, and "contact" sports like pingpong.

Abby, I once read in your column, "The best way to have a friend is to be one." To not overburden any one friend, some conversations are best done with God.

RACHEL L.

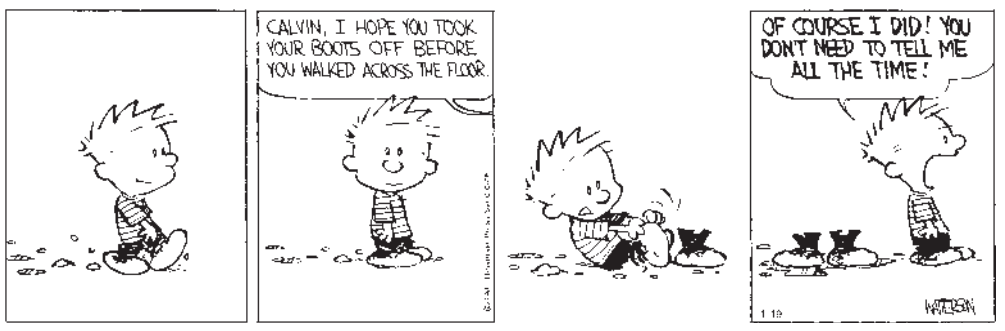
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

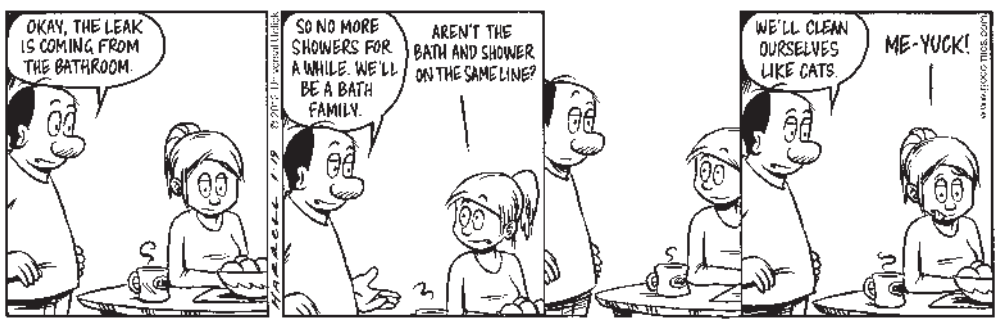

CALVIN, I HOPE YOU TOOK YOUR BOOTS OFF BEFORE YOU WALKED ACROSS THE FLOOR.
OF COURSE I DID! YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME ALL THE TIME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

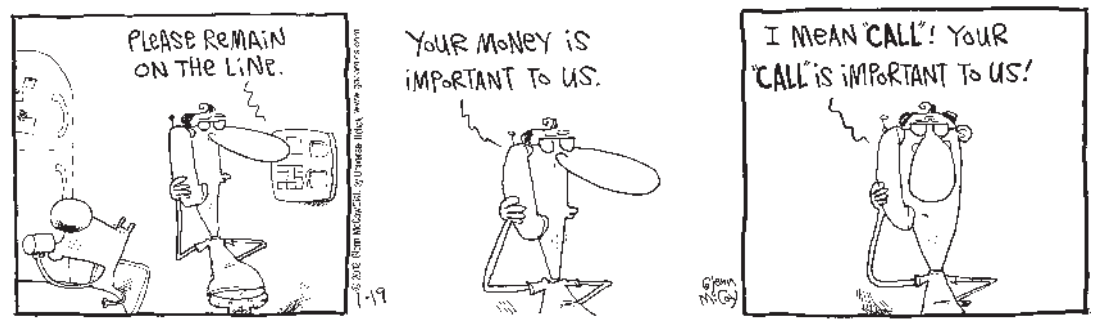
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, THE LEAK IS COMING FROM THE BATHROOM.
SO NO MORE SHOWERS FOR A WHILE. WE'LL BE A BATH FAMILY.
AREN'T THE BATH AND SHOWER ON THE SAME LINE?
WE'LL CLEAN OURSELVES LIKE CATS.
ME-YUCK!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

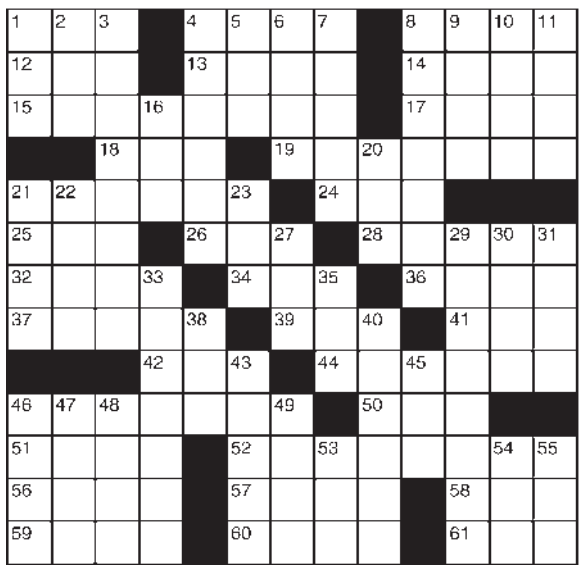
ACROSS
1 Vacationing
4 Wasn't colorfast
8 Ohio nine
12 Neither mate
13 Ethereal
14 List-ending abbr.
15 Blackmailer's task
17 — mater
18 Barracks bed
19 Apparent
21 Incalculable
24 Witness
25 Island neckwear
26 Conclusion
28 Door fastener
32 Corner
34 Do sums
36 Salver
37 Cancel
39 "— the season ..."
41 Cleo's slayer
42 Calendar abbr.
44 Type of raincoat
46 Vanquish
50 Director's cry
51 Stead
52 Double-take, e.g.
56 Actress Jessica
57 Barn roof decoration
58 Sphere
59 "Hey, you!"
60 Eastern potentate
61 PBS funding org.

DOWN
1 Individual
2 "Family Guy" airer
3 Bit
4 Fight
5 Roman 52
6 Cupid's counterpart
7 Units of force
8 Beef, e.g.
9 Needle case
10 "Phooey!"
11 Smeltery refuse
16 Bill's partner
20 Conger or moray
21 Radius neighbor
22 Element no. 10
23 Modern-day evidence
27 Old insecticide
29 Tension caused by pulling
30 Moolah
31 Syringe, for short
33 Fruit used in preserves
35 Brief swim
38 Rawls or Reed
40 World Cup game
43 Gall
45 Eccentric
46 Applaud
47 Rembrandt works
48 Beaks
49 Stationery unit
53 Singer DiFranco
54 Tramcar load
55 Cagers' org.

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	T	M	■	D	U	A	L	■	D	I	A	L
D	U	E	■	E	R	G	O	■	E	R	I	E
D	N	A	■	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	L	T
S	A	I	S	A	■	■	H	F	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	R	L	E	■	G	I	D	D	Y
B	L	A	C	K	I	C	E	■	S	O	D	A
A	I	D	■	S	M	O	G	S	■	P	A	L
B	L	O	W	■	B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E
A	T	S	C	A	■	I	D	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	U	S	■	■	N	Y	L	O	N
B	I	A	C	K	H	O	I	F	■	A	G	F
L	I	M	A	■	O	D	O	R	■	P	R	O
T	E	A	M	■	E	D	G	Y	■	P	E	N

Yesterday's answer 1-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drea de Matteo, 40; Shawn Wayans, 41; Katie Sagal, 58; Dolly Parton, 66.

Happy Birthday: Do your best to get along with people you work with personally and professionally. It's OK to show emotion, but you mustn't appear unstable. It's what you do, not what you say, that will count in the end. Show your strength by taking action. Your love life can flourish if you aren't possessive or nagging. Your numbers are 1, 6, 13, 24, 28, 31, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pick your battles. Stay active and pursue your goals. A challenge will help you redirect your energy and focus on something worthwhile. Arguing will be a waste of time. Offer your experience and know-how to those in need. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Invest in you and your goals, not in someone else or in something that will not benefit you personally. Be careful not to let anyone take advantage of you emotionally or financially. Put your energy into advancement and recognition. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look over your personal papers and take care of important correspondence. Learning a new skill or expanding your knowledge will help you get ahead. Discipline will enable you to complete an unfinished project. Relationship problems will surface. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't mix business with pleasure. Someone you like will try to use you to get ahead. Offer suggestions, but don't promote someone or something unless you truly believe in the outcome. Conversations can lead to good fortune. Focus on home and family. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will aspire to great heights if you change your environment. A short trip or visiting someone who has something to offer you will give you a different perspective regarding the possibilities that exist. Think big, but don't overstep your financial limits. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get out and try something new. Surround yourself with people who share your curiosity. Avoid emotional situations at home or with a partner who doesn't see things your way. You might want to re-evaluate your life and relationships. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Enjoy the company of friends who like to try new things. A little adventure or a trip will keep you away from the responsibilities at home that are getting you down. Take a break from your everyday routine. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The time and effort you put into helping someone will lead to knowledge that will allow advancement in other ways. Working electronically to reach a wider variety of clients is apparent. Expand your business interests. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotional matters will escalate. Avoid any sort of situation that might lead to verbal or physical abuse. Know when to step back and move on. A change at home will do you good and help you consider better options. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone from your past may cause a problem for you now. Don't give in to threats or blackmail. Back away from anyone trying to get something from you. Take control and you will avoid a situation that could turn ugly. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change of plans will work in your favor. Look at job opportunities and how you can tie in what you know and the experience you have in other fields that interest you. Raising your income should be the deciding factor. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick to what you can do, not what you cannot. Worry will only lead to emotional turmoil and poor judgment. Offer assistance to someone who can contribute to your future goals. What you put in, you will get back. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are progressive and emotionally sensitive. You are an ambassador of good will.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		4				
		2			6			
	3			1			5	
2			4		9			3
		8				4		
4			1		6			7
	9			5			8	
		1				7		
			6		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	6	3	7	8	9	4	1
1	3	4	5	6	9	2	7	8
7	9	8	2	1	4	3	6	5
3	7	9	1	5	6	8	2	4
6	1	5	8	4	2	7	3	9
4	8	2	7	9	3	1	5	6
8	6	7	4	3	1	5	9	2
9	2	3	6	8	5	4	1	7
5	4	1	9	2	7	6	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES **Solution: 8 letters**

G	B	E	A	Y	G	L	S	I	T	U	R	K	E	Y
O	I	I	G	Z	D	Y	E	T	S	P	A	L	A	U
U	A	Z	R	L	T	U	L	B	S	R	Y	A	L	C
R	E	W	A	K	E	I	T	A	M	A	A	G	T	O
N	V	G	U	C	A	S	K	S	T	I	L	E	E	B
I	A	P	N	R	O	K	U	A	B	I	S	N	L	A
A	C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	L	T	A	E	L	B
A	R	L	S	R	U	N	A	D	S	D	B	A	E	H
F	I	O	A	A	U	L	N	I	R	A	R	I	F	I
G	N	B	D	N	B	I	T	O	N	O	S	D	D	M
K	R	I	M	E	K	A	J	O	L	A	A	N	E	B
N	Ⓟ	E	C	O	G	A	N	L	N	O	N	I	L	E
E	Ⓐ	K	E	R	L	A	E	C	A	R	P	T	P	T
I	Ⓡ	R	O	C	M	O	H	A	R	U	J	A	H	K
J	Ⓚ	I	I	A	E	I	C	R	E	T	E	A	I	A

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Baalbeck, Bhimbetka, Birka, Caesarea, Cave, Clay, Coba, Colombia, Crete, Delphi, Egypt, Ellora, Epidaurus, Fell, France, Giza, Gournia, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Itza, Jordan, Khajuraho, Kind, Knossos, Lanka, Lasts, Lebanon, Nama, Palau, Park, Peru, Polonnaruwa, Race, Sakkara, Sanchi, Selge, Simbel, Sitagroi, Study, Tests, Tikal, Turkey

Yesterday's Answer: Declutter

SALE! Take one of these wonderful books shipped to you at last for the puzzle-challenged by master wordsmith Myron Mixon. Normally priced $14.95, the books are on sale for $13.95 each, U.S. funds only. Payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book in order, $1.50 for each additional book. Send to: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Call toll-free 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Rock and Roll

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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$6.00-$7.00/hr Contact
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We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

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January 21 – 22, 2012

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- 20′ Container • Chest Freezer
- Bed • Desk
- Chairs • Refrigerator
- Coffee Maker • Bacon Slicer
- Mixer • TV Set
- Cabinet....etc.

Location: China Town Husga Avenue (Behind Gold's Gym) Call: 285-9779

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Shu Jing Liu Petitioner, **vs.** **Michael Sanchez** Respondent.	]]]]]]]]	**FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0004** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2283 Box 10002, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing you answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 9th day of January, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

YUHONG HE, **Petitioner,** versus **YUJIU PAN,** **Respondent.**	]]]]]]]	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0608** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and send to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 22nd day of December, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Heat dominate 2nd half, roll past Spurs

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James scored 33 points, Chris Bosh added 30 and the Miami Heat used a historic third-quarter turnaround to erase a big deficit and beat the San Antonio Spurs 120-98 on Tuesday night, snapping a three-game slide.

Miami outscored San Antonio 39-12 in the third quarter—the second-largest differential for any quarter in Heat history, and the second-worst differential for a period in Spurs history. The Heat trailed by as many as 17 points in the first half, 52-35 late in the second quarter.

Mike Miller made his season debut and shot 6 for 6 on 3-pointers, finishing with 18 points and tying his career-high for makes from beyond the arc. And the Heat did it all without Dwyane Wade, sitting out on his 30th birthday because of a sprained right ankle.

"I couldn't let my boy down on his birthday," James said.

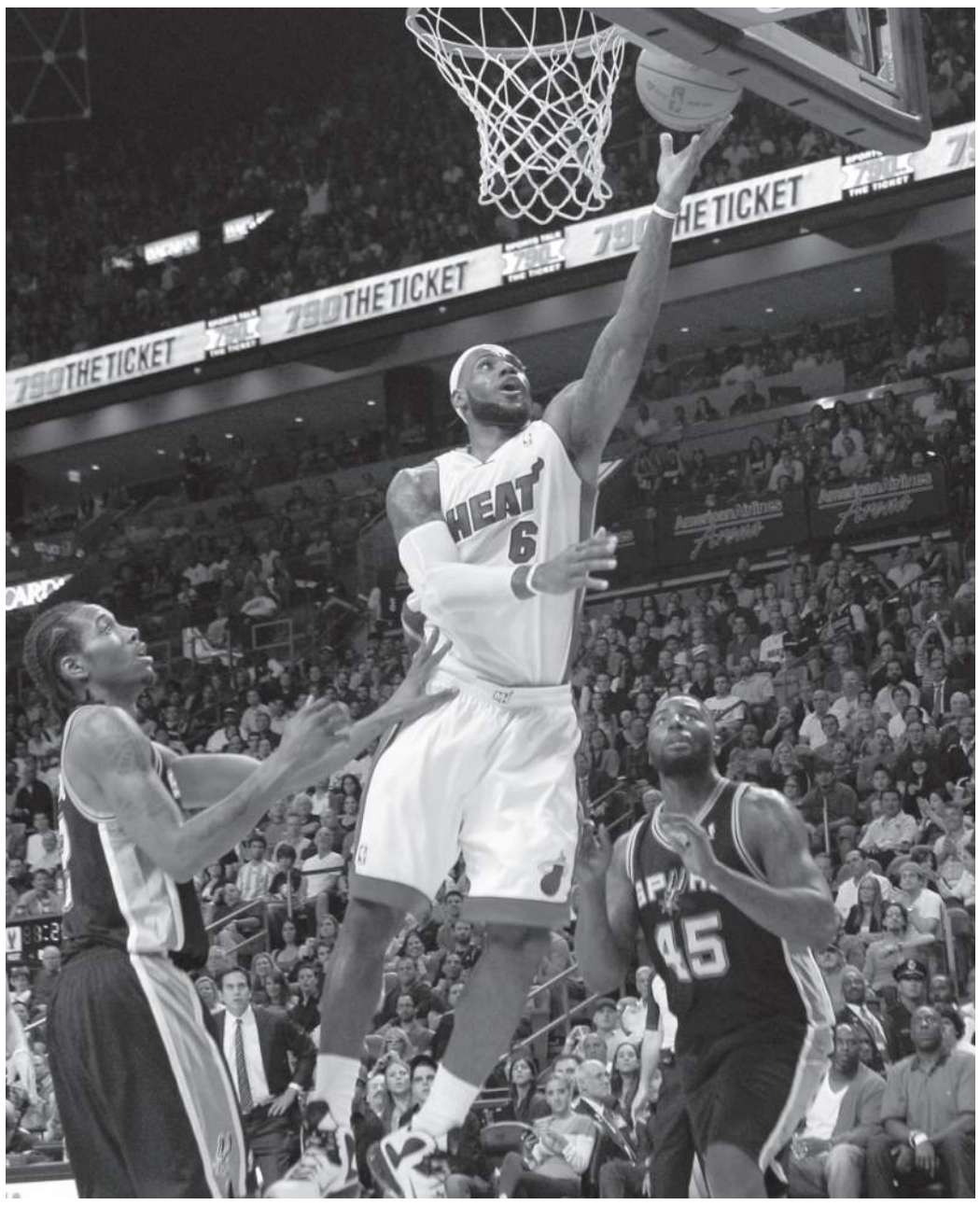
Danny Green scored 20 points for the Spurs, who got 18 from Tony Parker, 13 from DeJuan Blair and 12 from Kawhi Leonard and Gary Neal.

The Heat are now 4-0 without Wade this season, 8-1 since early last season without the 2006 NBA finals MVP. And unquestionably, this was the most improbable of those victories.

James was 7 for 9 in the third quarter. The Spurs—combined—were 4 for 19. James hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to put Miami up 72-68, and the Heat simply never stopped rolling from there.

The comeback from down 17 matched the NBA's fifth-largest this season. Miami outscored San Antonio 71-35 after halftime.

Before the game, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich summed his team's all-or-nothing record—9-0 at home, 0-4 on the road entering Tuesday—with his usual dry wit. "We're really good at home and on the road, we (stink). That's the biggest difference," Popovich said.



AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots over San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard (2) and DeJuan Blair (45) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012, in Miami.

He was half-serious, and it certainly didn't apply to the way the Spurs started Tuesday.

San Antonio made 12 of its first 15 shots, with eight of those makes coming from no more than 11 feet and most of them directly at the rim. James was terrible at the start, missing everything from layups to free throws, and the Spurs led 35-26 after the opening quarter.

They had Green to thank for that margin. Green took an inbounds pass with less than 2 seconds to go, set his feet and connected from the top of the key for a 3-pointer that beat the buzzer and left James shaking his head nearby.

James had the same reaction at the end of the half, and that time, Green wasn't even anywhere near the 3-point line. James had just connected on a 3-pointer to get the Heat within 11, but Green let a desperation heave fly from near midcourt that swished—sending the building into silence and the Spurs into the locker room up 63-49.

Everything was going San Antonio's way.

And then, well, nothing went the Spurs' way.

Magic 96, Bobcats 89

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 25 points and 17 rebounds to lead Orlando to its fifth straight win.

Jameer Nelson scored 17 points, Hedo Turkoglu had 15 and Von Wafer 13 as the Magic won for the 10th time in 12 games.

Gerald Henderson had 22 points for Charlotte, which has lost eight of its last nine. The Bobcats are also winless in their last five trips to Orlando.

Warriors 105, Cavaliers 95

In Cleveland, David Lee scored a season-high 29 points—13 in the fourth quarter—and Nate Robinson added 17 points, leading Golden State past the road-worn Cavaliers.

Golden State's Monta Ellis had to be helped from the floor bleeding in the final minute with a cut on his face. He was accidentally struck by an elbow from Cleveland's Anderson Varejao. Ellis finished with 10 points—13 below his average.

Antawn Jamison scored 19 and rookie Kyrie Irving had 18 for Cleveland, which committed a season-high 25 turnovers.

Bulls 118, Suns 97

In Chicago, Carlos Boozer scored 26 of his season-high 31 points in the first half, leading short-handed Chicago past Phoenix.

Boozer hit 12 of 15 shots in the opening half and scored eight points during a 12-point burst that opened up a 20-point lead for Chicago, which was playing without Derrick Rose for the second straight game because of a sprained left big toe.

Steve Nash led Phoenix with 25 points and nine assists.

Rockets 97, Pistons 80

In Houston, Samuel Dalembert had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Luis Scola also scored 14 as Houston downed Detroit for its fourth straight win.

Kyle Lowry had 13 points, five rebounds and five assists for the Rockets, who outrebounded the Pistons 42-35 to offset 21 turnovers. Houston shot 49 percent (40 of 81) from the field and scored 21 points off 17 offensive rebounds.

Tayshaun Prince scored 20 points, Ben Gordon had 18 and Rodney Stuckey added 16 off the bench for the Pistons, who've dropped eight of nine.

Nuggets 105, Bucks 95

In Milwaukee, Corey Brewer scored a season-high 22 points as Denver started its five-game road trip with a win over Milwaukee.

Brandon Jennings scored 12 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and first-round pick Tobias Harris came off the bench for 14 for the Bucks, who lost for the first time in five home games.

Milwaukee last opened a season with five straight home wins in 2007-08.

Al Harrington added 16 points and Gallinari and Nene each had 14 for Denver.

Jazz 108, Clippers 79

In Salt Lake City, Paul Millsap scored 20 points and reserve C.J. Miles added a season-high 19 as Utah got its 16th straight home win against Los Angeles.

The Clippers, who were without star guard Chris Paul for the second straight game because of a hamstring injury, have not won in Salt Lake City since 2003.

Millsap picked up where he left off in Sunday's win over Denver, starting 4 of 4 from the field. Miles provided a spark off the bench, with a 3-pointer, four steals and five rebounds.

Blake Griffin scored eight first-half points and finished with 10 for Los Angeles.

Caron Butler led the Clippers with 14 points, while Chauncey Billups had 10.

Lincecum offered record $17M, asks for $21.5M

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Lincecum asked San Francisco for $21.5 million in arbitration, just shy of the record for a player, and the Giants offered him a club-record $17 million Tuesday on a dizzying day when 80 players agreed to contracts.

The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner was among 54 players who exchanged figures with their teams, and his request fell short of the record $22 million requested by Roger Clemens from Houston when he became a free agent and accepted the Astros' arbitration offer before the 2005 season.

Interrupting the frenzied focus on money, there were two notable injury announcements.

Detroit said star slugger Victor Martinez could miss the entire season after tearing his left anterior cruciate ligament last week during offseason conditioning.

"After you feel sorry for yourself for a day or so, you move on," general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "We have a good club. We've got a lot of players who will step up."

Boston outfielder Carl Crawford had surgery on his left wrist Tuesday and could miss opening day. He was bothered by the wrist last season, and felt discomfort as he intensified pre-spring training workouts.

"Carl will be our everyday left fielder for the bulk of the 2012 season," new general manager Ben Cherington said. "We're not ruling out opening day, but we're not going to put a timeline on it."

At the exchange of arbitration figures, Lincecum set a mark among players with less than six years in the majors, topping Derek Jeter's $18.5 million submission in 2001. And the Giants' offer broke the 11-year-old club mark of $14.25 million offered by the Yankees to Jeter that winter.

"I'm overall optimistic that we'll find common ground without a hearing room," Bobby Evans, Giants vice president of baseball operations, said before seeing Lincecum's filing numbers. "It's a process that begins long before today in terms of conversations about possible deals that work for both sides. That process has continued in a mutual fashion. At this point we haven't reached a conclusion."

Lincecum is eligible for free agency after the 2013 season.

Boston designated hitter David Ortiz, who became a free agent and accepted Boston's offer of arbitration, had the second-highest request at $16.5 million and was offered $12.65 million by the Red Sox.

Other large amounts involved Chicago Cubs pitcher Matt Garza ($12.5 million vs. $7.95 million), Philadelphia outfielder Hunter Pence ($11.8 million vs. $9 million), Texas World Series star Mike Napoli ($11.5 million vs. $8.3 million), Los Angeles Dodgers NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw ($10 million vs. $6.5 million) and Baltimore right-hander Jeremy Guthrie ($10.25 million vs. $7.25 million).

Garza's $4.55 million gap was the largest. All-Star pitchers Chris Perez of Cleveland and Jair Jurrjens of Atlanta submitted the same figures as their teams, a signal a deal already was all but finalized.

Barring agreements, hearings before three-arbitrator panels will be scheduled for the first three weeks of February. Players won two of three hearings last winter, but teams lead 286-212 since arbitration began in 1974. The 119 players in arbitration averaged a 121 percent increase last year, according to a study by The Associated Press.

Among the 142 players who filed last Friday, 98 already have settled, including 10 after figures were exchanged.

There was just one multiyear agreement among Tuesday's deals, with Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval getting a $17.15 million, three-year contract, a deal subject to a physical.

The largest one-year deals went to Philadelphia pitcher Cole Hamels ($15 million), Dodgers outfielder Andre Ethier ($10.95 million), Boston outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury ($8.05 million), Milwaukee reliever Francisco Rodriguez ($8 million), San Diego outfielder Carlos Quentin ($7,025,000) and Tampa Bay outfielder B.J. Upton ($7 million).

Among international free agents, the Milwaukee Brewers agreed to a two-year contract with Japanese outfielder Norichika Aoki, a three-time batting champion in Japan's Central League.

Texas had a deadline of 5 p.m. EST on Wednesday to reach an agreement with Japanese pitcher Yu Darvish.

Also, former All-Star pitcher Joe Saunders agreed to a $6 million, one-year contract with Arizona, which cut him loose last month rather than allow him to become eligible for arbitration.

Colts fire coach Jim Caldwell after 3 seasons

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Jim Caldwell endured everything thrown at him during his first two seasons as the Colts' coach—replacing a friend, rebounding from losses and fighting through injuries.

Not having Peyton Manning around in 2011 was just too much.

Caldwell was fired Tuesday, a little more than two weeks after the Colts' worst season in two decades.

"This is obviously a big transitional time for us, but I know we're excited moving forward and it's hard when you say goodbyes to some people," team owner Jim Irsay said. "But it's part of the business."

In Indianapolis, the last two weeks have hardly been business as usual.

The day after a season-ending loss at Jacksonville assured Indy of the No. 1 draft pick in April with a 2-14 mark, Irsay fired team vice chairman Bill Polian, the architect of the Colts' success, and his son, Chris, the hand-picked general manager.

Irsay's nine-day search for a replacement ended last Wednesday when he chose 39-year-old Ryan Grigson as Indy's new GM.

Since then, Irsay and Grigson have met almost non-stop, debating what direction the team needed to go, whether staff changes would fix the problems or whether the team needed to bring in a new coach and possibly a whole new staff.

Things were so clouded Monday that Caldwell even met with former Rams coach Steve Spagnuolo about possibly becoming the Colts' new defensive coordinator, and as late as Tuesday morning, the conventional wisdom was that Caldwell would stay.

Then things changed almost as suddenly as the Colts' fortunes in 2011.

Irsay said he informed Caldwell of the decision about 2 p.m., shortly before the team confirmed the move.

"We just came to the conclusion that this is best moving forward for the franchise," Grigson said, referring to his first major decision in charge of an NFL team. "Mr. Irsay is the steward of this franchise and I'm here to help him wrap his head around these types of decisions. We've been in football our whole lives and a lot of it is about instincts."

Caldwell ends his Colts' tenure 26-22 overall with one AFC title, two division crowns and one bleak season that has left him unemployed just three years after replacing close friend Tony Dungy, the first black coach to hoist the Lombardi Trophy.

"This was a difficult decision," Irsay said. "I wanted to make sure we took all the time we needed to make sure it was the right decision. ... And just like 14 years, ago, it's a big change for the franchise and at the same time, there's players, coaches, many people on the staff that will go into the new day and get on with the work of 2012."

Back in 1998, the Colts brought in Manning, Bill Polian and coach Jim Mora. The team got better fast and, though Mora was gone after the 2001 season, the franchise became one of the league's model franchises.

And it is now headed in a different direction, even if Manning comes back as expected from Sept. 8 neck surgery.

Caldwell—who won his first 14 games, an NFL record for a rookie head coach, and became only the fifth first-year coach to take his team to the Super Bowl—won't be there when the Colts resume practice. With fans complaining about game management and clamoring for a change since midseason, Irsay didn't have much choice.

With Manning, the Colts won a league-record 115 regular-season games over the previous decade, tying the league mark for most consecutive playoff appearances (nine), winning two AFC titles and one Super Bowl trophy, the Colts lost their first 13 games in 2011, then won twice in five days and nearly lost the No. 1 draft pick, too.

Without Manning, Indy started 0-8 and was the heavy favorite to win the Andrew Luck sweepstakes at midseason. Caldwell's team lost the next five games, too, before finally winning two straight to avoid becoming the second 0-16 team in league history.

A season-ending loss at Jacksonville, officially gave the Colts the top pick, which is expected to be used on Luck.

Players never gave up on Caldwell and many cited their preference to keep playing for him next season. Manning was one of Caldwell's supporters, calling the coach that helped him win a record-setting four MVP Awards a "friend."

But the disastrous 2011 season was too much for Caldwell to overcome after winning AFC South titles in each of his first two seasons in Indy.

After overhauling the front office, Irsay last week hired 39-year-old Ryan Grigson as his new general manager, then wanted to wait until Grigson had time to evaluate Caldwell's performance.

The decision came Tuesday, setting off the second major search of the month.

"Change sometimes isn't always the easiest transition to make but it's part of this game, part of this league and part of the direction we need to get going in this new era of Colts football," Grigson said.

In this Nov. 13, 2011, file photo, Indianapolis Colts head coach Jim Caldwell walks off the field after the Jacksonville Jaguars defeated the Cots 17-3 in an NFL football game in Indianapolis. AP

Clijsters, Li into 3rd round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Defending champion Kim Clijsters cruised into the third round of the Australian Open and then showed just how much support she has at Rod Laver Arena by getting the crowd to sing 'Happy Birthday' to her younger sister.

Clijsters only needed 47 minutes to beat Stephanie Foretz Gacon of France 6-0, 6-1 on Wednesday, showing no signs of a hip problem that forced her to retire during a semifinal against Daniela Hantuchova at a warmup tournament two weeks ago.

She will meet Hantuchova in the next round here, and has a potential rematch of the 2011 Australian Open final with French Open champion Li Na in the fourth round.

Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer took differing paths against German rivals to the next stage. Nadal beat Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the last afternoon match on Rod Laver Arena. Second-seeded Nadal had his right knee heavily taped again after hurting it while sitting in a hotel chair on the weekend, but it didn't seem to restrict him.

"Much better, I am very happy about how the knee is improving," Nadal said. "I am playing without problems, so that's OK."

Federer, who has won four of his 16 Grand Slam titles in Australia, got a walkover into the third round when Andreas Beck withdrew from their scheduled Hisense Arena match due to a lower back injury. It deprived Federer of a different view at Melbourne Park, where he has played every match in Rod Laver Arena since the third round of the 2004 Australian Open.

Eighth-ranked Mardy Fish became the first top 10 player on the men's side to lose, falling 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (6) to Colombia's Alejandro Falla.

No. 7 Tomas Berdych advanced 6-1, 6-0, 7-6 (4) over Olivier Rochus of Belgium, 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, No. 18 Feliciano Lopez and No. 30 Kevin Anderson all advanced.

On the women's side, 10th-seeded Francesca Schiavone was eliminated 6-4, 6-3 by fellow Italian Romina Oprandi and No. 16 Peng Shuai lost 6-2, 6-4 to Iveta Benesova of Czech Republic. Former No. 1-ranked Jelena Jankovic beat Chang Kai-chen of Taiwan 6-4, 6-2.

Clijsters and No. 20 Hantuchova, a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 winner over Lesia Tsurenko, have been playing each other for years.

"When the injury happened, it happened against Daniela," Clijsters said of the hip muscle spasms she had at the Brisbane International. "She's been playing well this season so far.

"We both go back a long way—we grew up playing under-14s together. Now almost 30—still battling it out."

This was Clijsters best run at a major since the last Australian Open—she lost in the second round at the French Open and didn't play Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Li is also returning to form, going further than she has a Grand Slam tournament since her breakthrough win at the French Open. She next plays No. 26 Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain, who beat Olga Govortsova of Belarus 6-1, 6-0.

Li said she loved being back on Rod Laver Arena, where she burst onto the global tennis scene last year, while Clijsters still clearly feels at home on a court where she's still known as "Aussie Kim" long after her relationship with Lleyton Hewitt ended.

In a post-match TV interview, she asked presenter Rennae Stubbs a favor, saying her brother-in-law phoned her from Belgium to ask if she could convince the crowd to sing a birthday song for Elke, Clijsters' younger sister.

The crowd obliged, after Clijsters kicked it off.

Li took longer for her second-round win, saying it was harder than the scoreline suggested. She also has fond memories of Melbourne

Her form dipped after the French Open, with losses in the second round at Wimbledon and the first round at the U.S. Open, until she returned to Australia.

Coming off a run to the final at last week's Sydney International, Li was the first woman into the third round.

Li, who will be 30 next month and is seeded No. 5 at Melbourne Park, said she had great memories of the start of 2011.

"I'm feeling always good to come back to Rod Laver Arena," she said, reflecting on how her life had changed dramatically since last season started. "This year is much better than last year - more fans come to watch me play, not only from China but all over the world."

Serena Williams advanced to the second round in a match that finished after midnight, her ankle holding up to its first test since she sprained it in Brisbane two weeks ago. The only thing that bugged her, despite the 11:32 p.m. start on Tuesday, were the insects in a 6-3, 6-2 win over Tamira Paszek.

"I hate bugs more than you can imagine," Williams said. "Like, they kept jumping on me. Yuck!"

"I'm going to request not to play at night anymore because I hate bugs, except for the final. I heard it's at night," Williams said. "I'll try to get used to them."

She's now on a 15-match winning streak at Melbourne Park with back-to-back titles in 2009-10 and missing last year due to injuries.

Williams was playing only her third match since losing the U.S. Open final to Sam Stosur last September, so she admitted being "a wee bit tight." Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and No. 4-ranked Maria Sharapova also advanced.

Stosur didn't make the second round, losing 7-6 (2), 6-3 to No. 59-ranked Sorana Cirstea, but fans hung around to watch another Aussie hope. Hewitt, a two-time major winner, gave the night session crowd something to cheer when he beat Cedrik-Marcel Stebe of Germany 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, winning the last six games to overcome two service breaks in the last set.

Hewitt's win put him into a second-round match against old rival Andy Roddick.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic beat Paolo Lorenzi of Italy 6-2, 6-0, 6-0. Both the men he has beaten in Australian finals advanced in four sets. Andy Murray, runner-up the last two years, defeated American teenager Ryan Harrison and 2008 runnerup Jo-Wilfried Tsonga eliminated Denis Istomin.

Emon Lodge caging returns in March

After taking a break in 2011, Emon Lodge No. 179 is hosting an open league this year.

Dubbed as the 2012 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League, the second edition of the competition will kick off on March 4 at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

League organizers are hoping to accommodate 10 to 12 teams and each squad is allowed to have a maximum of 12 players in its roster. Entrance fee is only $500 and teams are required to submit a copy of players' registration/waiver forms. More information, such as game schedule, format, assigned uniform colors, and meeting dates will be announced later.

The Emon Lodge caging had its inaugural contest in 2010 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with nine teams entered in the first season. The list includes Armatech, Oches, Marianas Wireless, Mobil, MBI-Right Guard, Wings Travel, Tropical Laundry, Marianas Resort, and the Sparks.

The Jun Estolas-led Mobil went on to win the championship against Armatech, 93-80 Estolas was named MVP and also made it to the Mythical Five, joining teammate Kelvin Fitial, Armatech's Esdrelon and Junar Guiab, and the Sparks' Tom Santos. Two more Mobil players also gained individual awards, as Marvin Rabauliman took the best in steals plum and Jomary Tumaquip got the best in assists trophy. Marvin Deocares was adjudged Best Coach, while Armatech's Bruce Berline and Kirk Schuler notchedthe best in rebounds and best defender awards, respectively. Joeten Superstores took the sportsmanship award while Oches and the Sparks were awarded the fourth and third place trophies.

For more information about this year's Emon Lodge caging, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Nono Bostre at 1-671-687-4024 and Peter Crisostomo at 287-2325 or email at emon.lodge179@yahoo.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman goes up for a shot against two Armatech defenders during their title game in the Emon Lodge caging in 2010 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

2nd MBFNMI season to start in February

»Monday organizational meeting set

The Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI is gearing up for its sophomore season tentatively slated for February.

The MBFNMI is holding a 5:30pm meeting this Monday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan to discuss the start and format of the league.

All coaches, managers, and team representatives are expected to attend.

This year, a 50 and Above (50A) age class will be added to the original 35A, 40A, and 45A groupings.

The four divisions are all limited to 10 teams on a first-pay basis that comes with choice of uniform. All players are required to provide proof of age eligibility.

The entrance fee is set at $350 per team and is due by the start of each team's second game.

The MBFNMI board of directors is permitting players to form their own teams to represent a private company or government department; teams from Tinian and Rota are invited as well.

In the name of its slogan "Fit, Fun, Forever Young" the MBFNMI incorporates an "Everyone Must Play Rule".

If the rule is not honored a bench technical foul will be subjected.

There is a 12-player maximum per roster and the league will be formatted primarily under FIBA rules with a few ground rules such as time outs allowed from the bench and when a team simply holds possession of the ball.

Neither the opening date of the season nor its venue was disclosed.

Last January, Armatech and Top 45 Builders reigned supreme in the 40A and 45A divisions.

The renovation of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, meanwhile, hindered the start of last year's 35A season. IT&E was the last MBFNMI 35A champion back in 2010.

Players who are interested in joining and do not have a team are to email mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com or contact any of the board members listed below.

MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama, vice chair Joe Pangelinan, secretary Scott Norman, treasurer Yosh Gabaldon, with members Bruce Berline and Dante Olivos organized the league. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

MP UNITED

From Page 28

is sometimes a hindrance, we make the best out of the situation. The team's performance during the 2011 season was based on improvement and work ethic. Therefore, if we base our success on this criteria, given the fact that we started the season with a 5, we ended the season with a 10," Jimenez added when asked to sum up their 2011 campaign.

He added that the players' parents and assistant coach Lydia Tan played crucial roles in the team's success.

"I consider everyone from the parents, to the coaching staff, and the players as part of the team. The strongest attribute from the parents is definitely their resounding support for bringing the players to every practice and for cheering at every game, rain or shine. From my assistant coach, it's her grinding dedication to the team and without her help I would not be able to do my job as a coach. From the players, it's their drive to become better football players," Jimenez said.

With everybody working together to keep the team stronger, Jimenez expects the team to have another notable showing this season.

"My expectations for the Spring 2012 season are the same as last season: to maintain a strong work ethic and build responsible young men through football. Our roster will be very different this upcoming season as more than half of the players are moving up to U15. However, we will be adding many new faces coming up from the younger age divisions as well as new players from around the island. I look forward to the challenge in turning this next batch of young players into the future All-Stars for the CNMI," he said.

Ramsey, Lee, Tenorio, Villanueva, Izuka, Park, James Kim, and Abes are among those leaving the squad and moving up to the higher age group.

Before the 2012 spring season starts, MP United U12 is scheduled to compete against Guam and Philippine teams in a tournament in Guam early next month.

BANMI

From Page 28

Southern are undefeated in the MISO and they are the top favorites in the league, so hopefully players from these schools shows up at NMC tonight," Aguon said.

The veteran mentor also said that although only 12 players will be selected before the month ends, they plan to form a pool, which could practice and play against the chosen players. He added that players in the pool may also suit up for the CNMI U17 Team if individuals originally selected do not live up to the team's expectations.

"If you're selected in the first 12 list, but keep on missing practices and do not respond well during the training sessions, you may lose your spot," Aguon said.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School's John Darag drives against a Mt. Carmel School defender during their game in the MISO caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium. MISO players are encouraged to join the tryout for the CNMI U17 Team that will compete in the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament this May.

The interim coach also explained they have to make the cut at the end of this month to form the team early and give them enough time to work together and gel. Once the team is formed, it will have only about four months to prepare for the MBT U17, which Saipan will be hosting from May 7 to 12. The CNMI will be playing against teams from Guam, Yap, and Palau.

Aguon said they are hoping to form a CNMI team that can both play fast and slow type of games.

"Having a good ceiling is also an advantage because you can't teach height. However, we're more concerned of having different talents and players with good basketball sense. We only have a few months to prepare, so hopefully we will have players who can fit it to the system and develop chemistry quickly," Aguon said.

Training sessions will be held every Tuesday and Thursday and will run from 6pm to 8pm.

For more information, contact Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 or email eliasrangamar@hotmail.com or at 234-5498, extension 2500 or email rufinoa@nmcnet.edu.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	10	3	.769	–
New York	6	7	.462	4
Boston	4	8	.333	5 1/2
Toronto	4	10	.286	6 1/2
New Jersey	3	11	.214	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	10	3	.769	–
Atlanta	10	4	.714	1/2
Miami	9	4	.692	1
Charlotte	3	12	.200	8
Washington	1	12	.077	9

Central Division

Chicago	13	3	.813	–
Indiana	9	3	.750	2
Cleveland	6	7	.462	5 1/2
Milwaukee	4	9	.308	7 1/2
Detroit	3	11	.214	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	9	5	.643	–
Dallas	8	6	.571	1
Memphis	6	6	.500	2
Houston	7	7	.500	2
New Orleans	3	10	.231	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	12	2	.857	–
Utah	9	4	.692	2 1/2
Denver	9	5	.643	3
Portland	8	5	.615	3 1/2
Minnesota	5	8	.385	6 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	10	5	.667	–
L.A. Clippers	7	4	.636	1
Golden State	5	8	.385	4
Phoenix	4	9	.308	5
Sacramento	4	10	.286	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Golden State 105, Cleveland 95
Orlando 96, Charlotte 89
Miami 120, San Antonio 98
Chicago 118, Phoenix 97
Houston 97, Detroit 80
Denver 105, Milwaukee 95
Utah 108, L.A. Clippers 79

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	15	170	106	462	30.8
James, MIA	11	119	84	325	29.5
Anthony, NYK	12	103	88	313	26.1
Durant, OKC	14	127	86	364	26.0
Love, MIN	13	104	100	333	25.6
Ellis, GOL	11	95	58	261	23.7
Griffin, LAC	10	94	42	231	23.1
Aldridge, POR	13	120	54	295	22.7
Bargnani, TOR	11	89	56	245	22.3
Rose, CHI	13	93	64	271	20.8
Westbrook, OKC	14	103	57	272	19.4
Howard, ORL	12	85	63	233	19.4
Bosh, MIA	12	90	47	230	19.2
Lee, GOL	11	88	34	210	19.1
Jefferson, UTA	11	91	24	206	18.7
J. Johnson, ATL	14	93	45	259	18.5
Gay, MEM	12	93	26	220	18.3
Anderson, ORL	12	75	26	219	18.3
D. Williams, NJN	13	75	59	234	18.0
Paul, LAC	9	64	24	162	18.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gortat, PHX	80	129	.620
Hawes, PHL	57	97	.588
Howard, ORL	85	146	.582
James, MIA	119	206	.578
Monroe, DET	89	156	.571
Millsap, UTA	82	148	.554
Horford, ATL	57	103	.553
Harrington, DEN	73	132	.553
White, CHA	62	113	.549
Chalmers, MIA	53	97	.546

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	12	45	132	177	14.8
Love, MIN	13	61	125	186	14.3
Bynum, LAL	11	43	110	153	13.9
Griffin, LAC	10	37	77	114	11.4
Varejao, CLE	12	56	79	135	11.3
Gasol, MEM	12	27	103	130	10.8
Lee, GOL	11	37	79	116	10.5
Haslem, MIA	12	32	90	122	10.2
McGee, WAS	13	41	90	131	10.1
Cousins, SAC	13	56	71	127	9.8

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	11	111	10.1
Rondo, BOS	12	120	10.0
Calderon, TOR	14	127	9.1
Lowry, HOU	11	99	9.0
Rose, CHI	13	113	8.7
Paul, LAC	9	76	8.4
Rubio, MIN	13	108	8.3
D. Williams, NJN	13	107	8.2
Ellis, GOL	11	84	7.6
Parker, SAN	13	98	7.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 Pre-XTERRA/Tagaman Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners head to the course during last Saturday's 2012 Pre-XTERRA/Tagaman Run.

From left, Tamio Nishido, Ben Babauta, Joshua Berger, and Roxie Lamar smile as they near the finish line.

Father and son Tom, left, and Jack Linden sprint to the finish line.

The second wave of runners leaves the starting line near Gold's Gym.

From left, Edgar Abalos and Brad and Kathy Ruszala are about to complete the race.

From left, Pacific Islands Club's June Evangelista, Darwin Barbo, and James Abuy are a few meters away from the finish line.

John Auther, left, and Tyce Mister head out of the Sugar King Park.

Jason Tarkong makes his way to the Sugar King Park.

Charlie Sendin makes a turn out of the Sugar King Park.

Butch Sublemente gives a thumbs-up sign after completing the trail race first.

Heat dominate 2nd half, roll past Spurs

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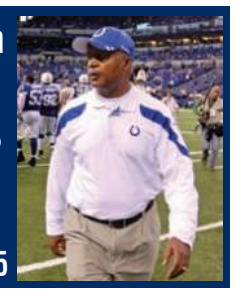
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Colts fire coach Jim Caldwell after 3 seasons



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MP United U12 vows to keep winning ways

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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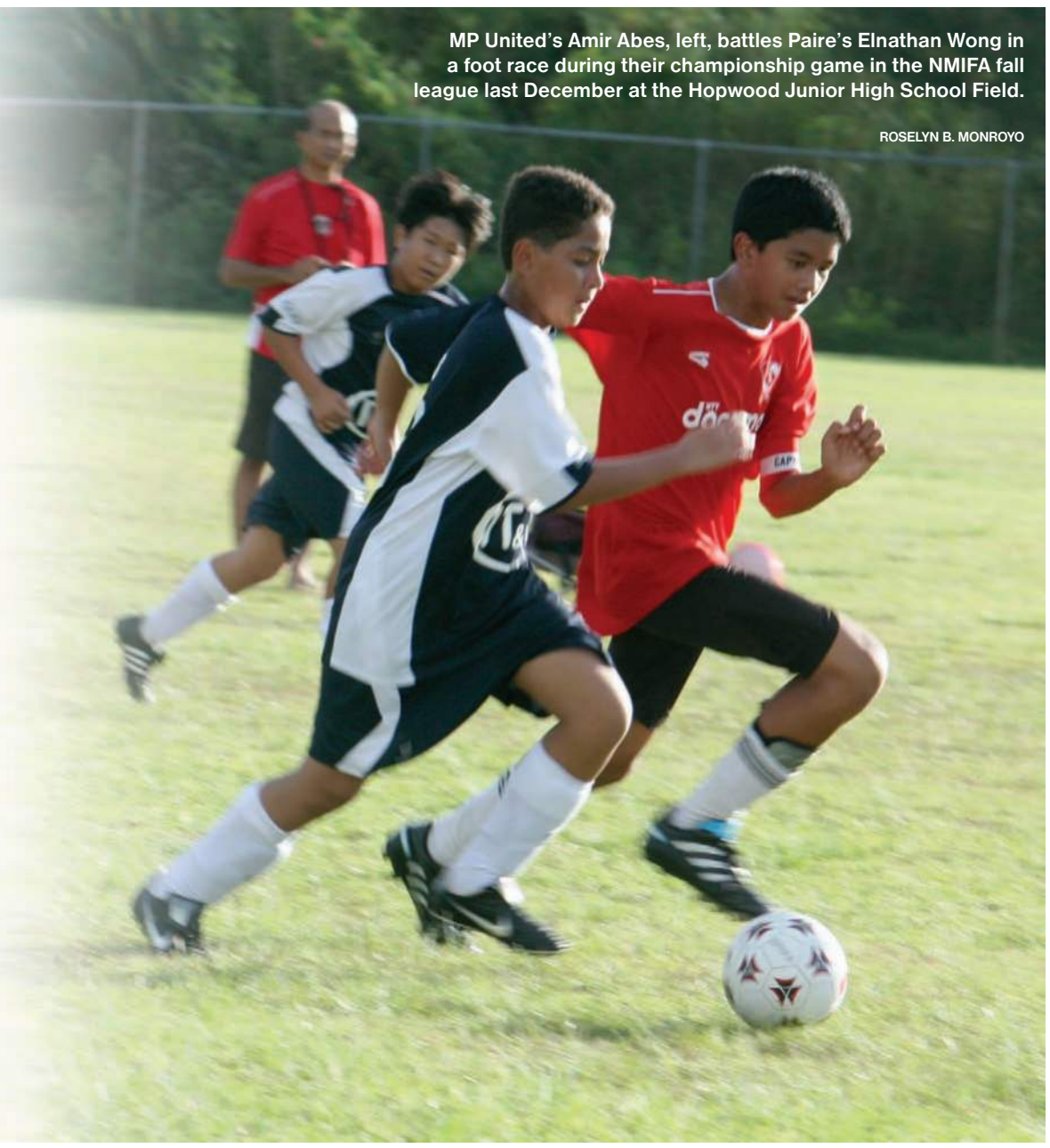
REPORTER



MP United's Amir Abes, left, battles Paire's Elnathan Wong in a foot race during their championship game in the NMIFA fall league last December at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

When the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League kicks off next week, MP United boys U12 will still be the team to watch in the age group competition.

The Joel Jimenez-coached MP United U12 will be riding on the momentum it gained from winning 2011 NMIFA Boys and Girls FA Cup and sweeping the fall season when it begins its campaign in the spring season, which is tentatively set to start on Feb. 18.

"MP United U12 will always be a force to be reckoned with," Jimenez said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* when asked of the team's chance for the upcoming season.

MP United U12 was undefeated in the fall season and capped the year with a 1-0 title win over its fiercest rival, Paire Football Club. Amir Abes scored the lone goal in the closely fought match. Completing the team were Alex Park, Noel Cabrera, Gee Syu Hahn, Clayton Izuka, Steve Kim, James Kim, Kentaro Kitagawa, Bada Lee, Jesus Quitano, Colin Ramsey, Arthur Sondheim, Wataru Tajima, Sun Joon Tenorio, and Moris Villanueva.

"Fortunately we had no real struggles the past season. Although resources and money on Saipan

See MP UNITED on Page 4

BANMI starts selection for U17 team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The search is on for boys U17 players who will represent the CNMI to the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament (U12 West Division).

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands said it is opening the tryouts for the CNMI U17 Team starting today at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium. The first session of a series of tryouts will begin at 6pm.

Longtime coach Rufino Aguon will be conducting the tryouts and will also serve as interim coach of the squad.

"We are hoping for players from Rotary and MISO to show up in the tryouts. We will be selecting only 12 players for the final cut, but we're hoping more will come to the tryouts, so we can really select the best among the best," Aguon said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Though he does not have a wish list of players, Aguon added that he will be pleased to see mainstays from Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School at the tryouts. "I've been reading the papers the past weeks and found out that MHS and

See BANMI on Page 4

Lopsided wins in HS girls volleyball

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan International School's Zoe Jewell spikes the ball with her left hand in Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic School Organization girls volleyball match against Marianas High School's junior varsity squad at the MHS Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The varsity squads of Saipan International School, Marianas High School, and Grace Christian Academy scored dominating wins in last Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization tripleheader held at the MHS Gymnasium.

Frontrunners SIS1 and MHS 1 remained undefeated in three games, while second-ranked GCA (2-1) bounced back from a loss to defending champions SIS1 last Thursday.

After observing the scores of Tuesday's matches, the three teams are showing early signs of taking the podium again this year. MHS1 finished second place in 2011, while GCA came in third.

Three games into the season it is now apparent that these three teams are separating themselves from the pack, however the absence of Saipan Southern High School (0-3) has skewed the standings.

Come tournament time, the addition of SSHS and Tinian High School it is still anyone's guess; SSHS is expected to join in the competition in February.

On Tuesday, SIS1 breezed past MHS2 (0-3) in three sets 25-11, 25-7 and 15-6, while MHS1 overwhelmed Kagman High School (1-2) in similar fashion, 25-10, 25-7, and 15-6.

GCA (2-1) swept the rookies out of Marianas Baptist Academy (1-2), 25-11, 25-6, and 15-9, while SIS2 (2-1) was gifted a no-show win by SSHS.

MHS1 is scheduled to take on the SSHS Lady Rays at 4pm on the south court along side a match between greenhorns MHS2 and MBA at the north end.

Then at 5pm SIS2 waves over GCA on the north square with KHS hosting SIS1 on the south court.

SIS2 and GCA hold identical records, but SIS2 received one of its wins via forfeit and will be put to the test.

All games are played at the MHS Gym.

KHS *downs* MHS2 *in girls soccer,* 2-1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Kagman High School rallied against Marianas High School's junior varsity squad, 2-1, thanks to a late penalty kick in the final five minutes of their Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization matchup held last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

The win improved KHS' record to a win with no losses and a draw, while MHS2 endured its second straight defeat.

The game was very competitive and went scoreless in the first half.

KHS actually controlled the pace of the game for the majority of the match, but MHS managed to break free early in the second frame to put the Dolphins ahead, 1-0, on a sneaky counterattack.

KHS pressed on and managed to tie the game in the 20th minute of the period when KHS' Andrea Camacho rebounded an off target shot and fired home the equalizer.

Then in the last five minutes of regulation MHS2 was called for a handball in the goalie box allowing KHS' Natasha Quitano to steal the win on a penalty kick.

The season continues at 4:30pm today at Oleai field with the MHS varsity (1-0-0) taking on Saipan Southern High School (0-0-1).

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School's goalie clears out the ball in Tuesday's MISO girls soccer match against Marianas High School's junior varsity at the Oleai Sports Complex.